

THE JOURNAL

March 12, 2004

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Sports Gaucho girls outmatched in CIF basketball tournament [C1]

Arts Ailey choreographer aims to keep things fresh [C12]

A's, banks step in to help schools

athletics, literacy
net survive in
West Contra
district

ona Facio Contreras
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Two days after West Contra Costa school eliminated athletics, thousands of jobs to save the Oakland A's and two stepped up to help revive athletic programs.

Wednesday started with more protests over the sweeping \$1.4 million in cuts. Though protests were peaceful, some minor problems

reported in Pinole, police said.

Mike Billeci, Wells Fargo & Co.'s greater Bay Area region president, gave a \$50,000 check for the sports program to district Superintendent Gloria Johnston during an afternoon event at the Richmond High School library.

Steven Barlow, executive vice president of Mechanics Bank, gave a \$25,000 check to be divided between athletics and the district's literacy program.

But the potentially largest gift of the day was offered by David Alioto, vice president of sales and marketing for the Oakland A's. The baseball team will donate half of the proceeds of all ticket sales for three Wednesday night games on June 9, July 27 and August 25, he said.

"We decided we didn't want to take a Band-Aid approach," Alioto said. "We wanted to step up to the plate and help."

Since word of the A's interest in helping the district got out this week, Alioto said he has received phone calls from dozens of other California school districts asking for assistance.

Corporate donations are "a good start," Johnston said. "It's a short-term solution, but we're very optimistic."

To keep high school sports, the district needs \$525,400, she said. Another \$1.4 million is needed to keep school libraries staffed, Johnston said.

A second Mechanics Bank account has been opened specifically for library donations. An ac-

count opened earlier will be used only for sports.

Johnston met with principals and athletic directors late Tuesday to discuss the future of district sports and how to raise money to keep them going.

El Cerrito High School Principal Vincent Rhea said he was optimistic at the end of the discussion.

Three issues would need to be addressed if enough money is raised to maintain athletics: equity for all high school sports programs, safety and supervision of sports teams, and ensuring that the programs remain competitive, Rhea said.

"It's all or nothing. We all have

See HELP, Page A12



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

EL CERRITO High School Principal Vincent Rhea, talks to students, Wednesday, March 10, gathered at the football bleachers after a student walkout that morning protesting program cuts eliminating high school sports.

Cerrito Creek restoration work criticized

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The recently completed Cerrito Creek restoration on the south side of El Cerrito has come under fire lately as prominent Bay Area creek advocates have criticized the project for falling short of restoring a natural creek system and proper habitat.

The project does not meet the goal of a true creek restoration; it's too straight, contains too much rock and the loss of plants, said Ann Miller and watershed advisor for the California Regional Quality Control Board.

Other water board officials also say the project does not meet the construction document which they say led to the deficiencies.

They were trying to recreate a natural system and what was lost doesn't do that," said Will Miller, chief of the North Bay Watershed Division for the quality board. "It's closer to a ditch, but it could've been better in terms of the ultimate goal."

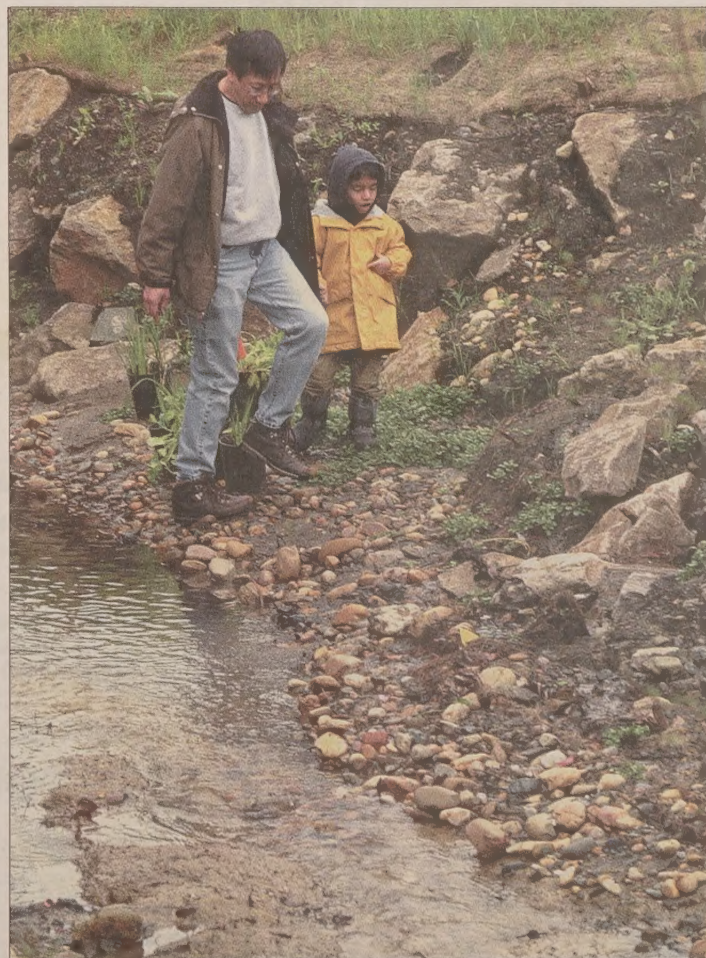
The project was intended to stabilize an 800-foot section of Cerrito Creek, by removing a section of concrete lining that hung over the creek bed, creating a gentler slope and removing invasive plants, and giving the channel a natural meander.

Part of the project was paid through a \$350,000 grant from the State Coastal Conserv-

ation. The project falls short of creating a natural creek channel in several ways, said water board officials.

The banks were stabilized using more rock than the water board expected.

See CREEK, Page A11



GREGORY URQUIGUA/STAFF

ALLAN FONE and his son Daniel, 4, walked along the Cerrito Creek looking for good spots to plant on Feb. 21 in El Cerrito. A number of volunteers came out to help with the plants and tree-planting.

City to remove mural over historical, race issues

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A community mural criticized as an inaccurate portrayal of the area's history will likely be removed this month following discussions of the mural held over the last several months by two city commissions and the historical society.

The mural stands inside the city's community center, above the entrance and depicts cowboys herding cows, horses

pulling wagons full of people, Native Americans gathering food and frolicking in the Bay, ships standing in the water and a map of Contra Costa County.

In the center of it all, and much taller than the rest of the images, is what appears to be a well-dressed Caucasian man in a bow-tie, his left hand holding his hat, his right hand in his jacket pocket.

That man is actually Victor Castro, a seminal figure in El

Cerrito's history, who inherited a rancho on the south end of El Cerrito and built a 14-room mansion where El Cerrito Plaza now stands.

At the time Cruz criticized the mural because it says that the most important person in the city's history was a white man and it glossed over the contributions of the Native Americans and the hardships and violence

See MURAL, Page A12

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See MURAL, Page A12

Residents assail plan to raze village units

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — A plan to demolish hundreds of housing units at University Village and build hundreds more has prompted strong criticism from residents wanting to keep housing costs low, as well as save a 14-acre plot of land used for farming and university agricultural research.

About 30 people criticized the plans at a recent meeting held to get input on the University Village draft environmental impact report. Residents said the plans would impact the affordability of village housing and take away a valuable agricultural resource, the 14-acre Gill Tract, by replacing it with ball fields and a community center.

"There's no monetary interest from the university in sustainable agriculture and historic landmarks and nice parks for people," said Albany resident Kim Linden. "It's not on their agenda and I think it's a mistake. I think their view point is that it's going to build a top-notch village with commercial (uses). And it's all about money."

University Village

UC Berkeley wants to demolish 564 units of housing and replace them with new units.



Rents to rise

In the works since 1998, UC Berkeley is planning to raze 564 units of older housing at University Village.

See VILLAGE, Page A11

Longtime member leaving school board

■ Bill Cain is stepping down from the AUSD board and leaving Albany for Berkeley

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Bill Cain is leaving Albany and moving to Berkeley, ending 20 years of active civic life in this city and leaving an empty seat on the Albany school district board that the board will attempt to fill within the next month.

Cain attended his last school board meeting as a member on Feb. 24, and his resignation was unanimously accepted 4-0 by the school board March 9. He is unable to continue serving because school district rules prohibit people living outside the city to be school board members.

Residents, board members

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

Residents who wish to be appointed to the Albany Unified School District board can pick up applications at the school district office, 904 Talbot Ave., at the Albany Library or online at www.albany.k12.ca.us. Applicants need to be over 18, an Albany resident and a U.S. citizen. For more information, call 510-558-3766.

and City Council members praised Cain as a man who has cared about the community, understood the minutia of school board issues and stuck to his principles, in particular his effort to "keep the focus on the kids." Cain was a school board member for nearly eight years, and his term was scheduled to end this December.

"He has a strong, forceful character and brought a lot of foresight and wisdom to deliberations," said school board presi-

See CAIN, Page A11



Bill Cain

INSIDE

(KNIGHT RIDDER)

Neighbors

■ Firefighter is first non-Rotarian honored by El Cerrito group. Page A3

At the Library

■ Conference covers the gamut from poets to pups. Page A5



Martin Snapp

■ The biggest news story in recent days is one most people may have overlooked. Page A3

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Backpacking essentials workshop scheduled

Learn what equipment is needed for a backpacking trip, and discover fun places to hike. Venture Crew 2014 has scheduled a workshop on backpacking from 7:30-9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1325 Portland Ave.

El Cerrito

Women voters to hear from Sierra Club

The League of Women Voters — West Contra Costa County will meet on Tuesday, March 16 at 11:30 a.m. with a speaker following at 12:15 p.m. in the third-floor conference room of the El Cerrito Royale, 5610 Gladys Ave. The speaker will be Jonna Papaefthymiou from the Sierra Club, who will talk about environmental issues in West Contra Costa County. Anyone is welcome to bring a brown bag lunch and join us for this informative meeting.

Readers invited to book club talks

Anyone interested in reading good books and jumping into discussions is invited to come to El Cerrito's book club, the Page Turners. Started three years ago for students, teachers and parents, Page Turners meets once a month to discuss a current book and choose the next one. Newcomers are always welcome.

The next book is "Black Rain," by Masuji Ibuse. The club will discuss it on Wednesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. at El Cerrito High School in room 604. Meetings usually last about an hour. For details, call Paula Gocker or Joan Cone at 510-524-9560.

Berkeley

UC focusing on attention deficit disorder

A \$900,000 federal grant over the next three years will help Cal researchers understand the economic issues and policy decisions surrounding the use of medications to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, the most commonly diagnosed behavioral disorder in children today.

According to a 2002 report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 3.5 percent of school-age children in the country are diagnosed with ADHD, and more than half of them regularly take psychostimulant medication, predominantly Ritalin or its longer-acting formulations.

The grant from the National Institute of Mental Health will support market analysis of the economic, policy, health system and other factors influencing the supply and demand for psychostimulants. The researchers will track shipments of the drugs to the pharmacies dispensing them to better understand which communities are utilizing the psychostimulants, and why that use varies greatly from one region to the next.

City offers disaster readiness training

The city's Office of Emergency Services reminds residents that earthquakes are a fact of life and we need to be ready for them.

To that end, the office is offering a free classes in Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). The classes range from hands-on use of a fire extinguisher, to learning how to make a splint, to learning how to identify signs of structural damage.

CERT classes are free and open to anyone 18 or older who lives or works in Berkeley.

April and May classes are all on Saturdays. Unless noted, classes are at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

- April 3, 9 a.m. to noon, Shelter Operations
- April 10, 9 a.m. to noon, Disaster First Aid (997 Cedar St.)
- April 17, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Basic Personal Preparedness
- April 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fire Suppression (997 Cedar St.)
- May 1, 9 a.m. to noon, Responding to Terrorism

Sign up for any or all of these classes by calling 510-981-5605, TDD 981-5799, or go to www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/fire/oes.html

West County

Sign-ups scheduled for youth soccer

Fall 2004 soccer registration for the West Contra Costa Youth Soccer League will be held March 14, March 28 and April 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the cafeteria at De Anza High School, 5000 Valley View Road in El Sobrante. All children from ages 4 to 18 are welcome to sign up. The fee is \$80 for ages 4 and 5, and \$100 for ages 6 and up. Sibling discounts are available. Please bring a copy of the birth certificate and a small wallet size photo of the player. For details, visit www.wccysl.com or call the league hotline, 510-869-5288.

— Staff report

ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Tuesday, March 2

■ **SPEEDING** — Officers stopped a white '02 Ford Focus on the 700 block of Buchanan Street for speeding. The driver, a 27-year-old El Cerrito man, was found to have an outstanding warrant from Emeryville for driving with a suspended license, not following a traffic sign and no proof of insurance in the amount of \$1,351. He was arrested, cited and released with a notice to appear. The vehicle was towed.

■ **LICENSE PLATE STOLEN** — During the night unknown thieves stole the front license plate from a green '02 Ford Explorer parked on the 700 block of Pomona Avenue.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — A resident at 535 Pierce St. reported that her silver '91 Toyota Camry had been broken into while parked in the garage area. There were no witnesses.

■ **PURSE STOLEN** — Officers responded to a business on the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a purse that was stolen from behind a desk. There were no witnesses.

■ **DETERMINED THIEVES** — At about 8:30 p.m. a resident at 535 Pierce St. reported that thieves had attempted to steal his blue '03 Kawasaki Ninja motorcycle. The bike had been moved and the ignition had been punched. The thieves were eventually successful because two days later, on the morning of March 4, the owner found the bike missing. Again there were no witnesses. The following morning, March 5, maintenance workers found the bike in another part of the garage. Several parts had been stripped off.

Wednesday, March 3

■ **PICKUP RECOVERED** — Officers located a tan '86 Toyota pickup on the 500 block of Pierce Street that had been stolen in Richmond. They did not have anyone in custody and the owner was notified.

■ **LOCKER BREAK-IN** — Thieves broke into a locker in a building at 535 Pierce St.

■ **ARREST FOR POSSESSION** — At about 11:30 p.m. officers arrested a 28-year-old Richmond man riding a bicycle near Solano and Kains avenues for possession of a controlled substance. He was cited and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

Thursday, March 4

■ **STEREO STOLEN** — Thieves stole a stereo out of a locked white Ford van parked at a dealership on the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue.

Friday, March 5

■ **TRIO ARRESTED** — At about 1:15 a.m. a resident at 555 Pierce St. reported observing two figures who appeared to be taking items from a dumpster on the 500 block of Cleveland Avenue and carrying them to a nearby vehicle. Officers arrested a 33-year-old San Leandro man, a 28-year-old Berkeley man and a 20-year-old San Leandro woman. They were all charged with conspiracy, trespassing and petty theft, cited and released with notices to appear. The Berkeley man was additionally charged because of an outstanding Oakland warrant for failure to appear.

■ **HOME BURGLARY** — At about 9:15 a.m. a resident on the 100 block of Peralta Avenue reported that while she was taking a shower she heard the sound of breaking glass in her house. Upon investigation she found the kitchen window broken and a subject jumping over her back fence. He was described as wearing a dark colored knit cap and a two-toned colored jacket and was last seen riding a bright red bicycle heading south on Ordway Street. He was gone when officers arrived.

■ **DRUNK IN PUBLIC** — At about 2 p.m. officers responded to Cornell School on the 900 block of Talbot Avenue on reports of a subject causing

a disturbance and who may have been intoxicated. Officers located a 54-year-old San Francisco man and found him to indeed be intoxicated. He was arrested for being drunk in public, cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ **LOCKER BREAK-IN** — During the night unknown thieves broke into a storage locker at 535 Pierce St..

Saturday, March 6

■ **BURGLARY INTERRUPTED** — At about 3 a.m. security officers at 535 Pierce St. reported that they had just stopped a woman from breaking into a vehicle about 10 minutes prior. She had fled and was gone when officers arrived.

■ **BICYCLES STOLEN** — A resident on the 700 block of Taft Street reported that two mountain bikes were stolen from a locked storage area.

■ **DRUNKEN DRIVER ON SCHOOL GROUNDS** — At about 3 p.m. officers arrested a 44-year-old Danville man for driving his gold Ford pickup on the school grounds of Albany Middle School on the 1200 block of Brighton Avenue. He was found to be intoxicated and uncooperative. He was arrested for driving drunk and causing injury, possession of stolen property and two counts of resisting arrest. He was transported to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **HOME BURGLARY** — A resident on the 1500 block of Francis Street reported that her neighbor was out of town and her house may have been broken into because the back door was open. Upon investigation officers determined that the home had indeed been burglarized and increased patrol of the area until the owner returned.

Sunday, March 7

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — At about 2:30 a.m. officers stopped a white '76 Buick on the 500 block of Pierce Street for a vehicle code viola-

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Wednesday, Feb. 25

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — At El Cerrito Plaza someone broke into a vehicle and stole the stereo and other property.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — Someone stole a 1985 Honda Civic from the driveway of a home on the 5500 block of Central Avenue.

Thursday, Feb. 26

■ **BURGLARY** — Someone shattered a home's rear window and took jewelry and cash from the master bedroom on the 10 block of San Carlos Street, in the evening.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — Between Feb. 25 and 26 someone smashed a vehicle's window and stole property

on the 5700 block of Charles Avenue.

Friday, Feb. 27

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — Someone stole a silver 1986 Toyota Celica from the 6300 block of Jordan Avenue late Thursday or early Friday.

Sunday, Feb. 29

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — On the 800 block of Pomona Avenue someone damaged the driver side door lock of a 1996 Ford Escort and removed coins.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — Police found a vehicle with a broken window on the 2600 block of Francisco Way; investigation revealed the auto was burglarized late in the evening; the thieves stole a chainsaw and hand

tools.

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — Police recovered a 1987 Honda Accord reported stolen in Antioch, on Conlon Avenue at Cedar.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A maroon 1990 Toyota Cressida four-door was reported stolen on the 5600 block of Macdonald Avenue.

Monday, March 1

■ **BURGLARY** — Between Feb. 29 and March 1 someone broke a lock on a shed and forced entry but didn't take anything, on the 500 block of Colusa Avenue.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — On the 11740 block of San Pablo Avenue

tion. The driver, a 30-year-old man, was found outstanding warrants for suspended licenses for a 1991 and a 1992. He was arrested, cited with a notice to appear and towed.

■ **SUSPENDED LICENSE** — About 10:30 p.m. officers on 911 Infinity near Mission Avenue for a 1991. The driver, a 30-year-old man, was found with a suspended license was cited and released to appear.

Monday, March 8

■ **CAR STOLEN** — During the night unknown thieves stole a 1993 Ford Taurus parked on the block of Curtis Street in Berkeley. The owner was notified.

■ **STOLEN AUTO** — Officers located a maroon Camry near San Carlos Avenue that had been stolen from Berkeley.

■ **REGISTRATION** — During the night unknown thieves stole a 1991 Honda parked on the Ramona Avenue.

Weekly summary

During the week of March 8, officers towed seven cars, issued false alarms, arrested three animals, arrested two dogs who were locked out of their homes, responded to one dog bite, responded to 15 civil complaints and 194 civil arrests. Officers stopped 105 vehicles, issued 45 citations and Albany firefighters responded to three fire calls and medical emergencies.

Tuesday, March 9

■ **BURGLARY** — On the 11740 block of Terrace Drive someone broke the door of a storage area and stole tools valued at more than \$1,000 between Feb. 29 and March 1.

■ **BURGLARY** — A woman and her son broke into a home and left the area in the rear of the house. The house was on the 10000 block of San Pablo Avenue was parked in the rear door kicked in.

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Neighbors

ACES & FACES

The El Cerrito Rotary Club bestowed its highest honor, the Paul Harris award, for the first time on a non-Rotarian, a firefighter Rod

Wood began a Fireman's program 15 years ago. It has grown to include all Contra Costa County, is supported by the Richmond and El Cerrito fire departments and employs more than 600 firefighters each holiday season. El Cerrito Fire Chief Mike and El Cerrito Operations and El Cerrito Rotary made a support to Wood's program. El Cerrito Rotary made a contribution to its annual program in Wood's honor. The Paul Harris award is given to the club's founder, began it with three other firemen in Chicago in

The Rotary Club of El Cerrito at the Mira Vista Community Club, 7901 Cutting, on Thursdays at 12:15

make donations to the program, send a check or Firefighter's Toy Program, 330-25th St., Richmond, 94804.

Albany Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Albany Day at the Races on Sat-



ROD WOOD, a Richmond firefighter, receives the Paul Harris Award from El Cerrito Rotary's district governor Connie Crawford. What is the Paul Harris award and why did he receive it? Read more at right.

urday, March 20 — which also is Family Day at Golden Gate Fields. The free event begins at noon; free tickets are available

for all Albany residents at the Chamber of Commerce office at 1108 Solano Ave. For more information call

510-525-1771 or e-mail albany-chamber@bigplanet.com

— Journal staff

Chabot has (Martian) water on the brain

THE BIGGEST NEWS STORY last week wasn't John Kerry or Mel Gibson or even Martha Stewart.

A hundred years from now, history will remember only one thing: Last week was the week we discovered water used to flow on Mars. At the Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland, they're quietly going bananas.

"I'm walking on air!" exults head astronomer Ryan Diduck. "What really is exciting is not that we discovered water; we've known that since the Mariner mission in the '70s. But what we didn't know until now is whether the water was there for a long time or just a brief flash flood."

But why should we care? What does it matter if there was water on Mars millions of years ago? "Because we all want the answer to the age-old question: 'Are we alone?' You need to stir the primordial soup for a long while before life can gain a foothold, and we've just found that water was there a very long time, long enough to alter the chemical composition of the rocks."

"That's what has everyone excited. We had 600 kids in here today, peering through the telescope. To tell the truth, Mars isn't all that great to look at; it doesn't have very interesting features. But that's not what they're looking for. They're looking for those Little Green Men. And, in my own way, so am I."

And, he says, Mars isn't the only place in the Solar System that might harbor life.

"If you ask me to put my money down on where we'll find it first, I wouldn't bet on Mars, I'd bet on Europa, a moon of Jupiter. It's encased in a layer of ice, but images from the Galileo probe show ice flows like we see in the Arctic, floating on an ocean."

If there is life out there, what are the odds that some of it is intelligent — if not in our own solar system, perhaps in another one?

"Well, luck plays a role. If it weren't for a meteor that decided it really liked the Earth, dinosaurs would be running the world instead of us. But our galaxy has about 200 billion



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

stars. That's as many stars as there are grains of sand on all the beaches on Earth. And there are probably 200 billion more galaxies in the visible universe.

"Looking at stars the size of our sun, one in 10 seems to have planets. Even if it's only one in a hundred, or one or a thousand, or one in a million, that's still billions of planets. Couple that with the fact that we've been to only two planets — Earth and Mars — and found water on both, and you do the math."

"We'll never find the answer to everything, but we'll know the answer to a lot of the main questions in the next 20 to 30 years. And when we do, I hope it'll cause us to really look at the way we treat life on Earth and put our petty differences in perspective."

Which brings up the obvious question: If there is intelligent life out there, why haven't they contacted us? One answer, I suppose, is that they already have, and the government is covering up blah blah blah. But let's not go there. I'm too old for conspiracy theories.

Another possibility is that they're too far away. Or, more likely, were. Space is so vast, and the laws of physics so seemingly immutable, by the time the television waves from "Average Joe" and "The Apprentice" get there, their civilization will have been extinct for eons.

Or maybe they have seen our TV shows and decided we're so tacky, they want nothing to do with us.

Or maybe George Bernard Shaw was right. He said the rest of the universe uses Earth as an interplanetary insane asylum.

But one way or another, we're going to find out: We are not alone.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or

Library workers have to be ready for unexpected

scorpion (skor'pi un): A small, insect-eating animal with a pinch and a poisonous

SIGN AS you entered the library said it all: There is a scorpion loose in the library. If you are allergic to scorpions, be warned. If you are not, step on it or you'll be in for a scorpion. Albany Public Library Manager Steve Wasserman said it's the first time such a scorpion has been in the library since he has worked there. He said it was in 1985.

Library Manager Steve Wasserman said, "It's all in a day's work by the staff."

Started last week, when Wasserman was helping a patron out of a library card. He said he saw her ID, and as she pulled her purse, the scorpion came out of her wallet.

The patron "gave a yelp," Wasserman says, and cried, "I've just been bitten by a scorpion."

Wasserman said he tried to trap it under her ID, he continues, "And ran to get some paper towels to get some paper towels to get some paper towels."

Wasserman said he tried to trap it under her ID, he continues, "And ran to get some paper towels to get some paper towels."

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CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

all was well.

The patron had been visiting her daughter in Glen Ellen, and supposed that was where the animal had gotten into her purse.

The staff at first was just going to ignore it, but others said, "Oh, no, this creature's bite is toxic, and it could bite someone else." A hunt was undertaken, but there is no way that such an animal could be found in a place like a library, with thousands of hiding places.

Ronnie Davis did call Vector Control, who told her that with no areas of dampness, the creature would soon become just a tiny pile of dust and blow away.

Of course, there was the slight water leak around one of the upright columns in the library, but nothing was found there and it was immediately repaired. Others said scorpions live in the desert and they seem to do well there. Thus the signs.

Wasserman said I was the second person who interviewed him about the Scorpion in the Library. The first was a fourth grader who wrote it up for his school newspaper. Darn. Scooped again.

In last week's column about the Sjogren's Syndrome Public Symposium, somehow the box with all of the information was not included. Since the symposium

will take place on April 3, we are happy to supply you with the information now: the Sjogren's Syndrome Public Symposium, presented by the authors of the book on the subject, *A Body Out of Balance: Understanding and Treating Sjogren's Syndrome*, Ruth Fremes and Nancy Carteron, M.D., FACR, will be held on April 3, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the California Pacific Medical Center, 2333 Buchanan St. (at Sacramento), Level "A" Conference Room, in San Francisco.

For more information from Ruth Fremes you are invited to call her at 510-559-8882. I thank all the people who called me for the information.

Do you know people, places or groups in El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington that would make good subjects for this column? If so, please write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

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Tanaka: Urban Prayer (World Premiere)
Joan Jeanrenaud, cello

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Judiyaba, cello

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GENERAL MANAGER • SHAREEF DAJANI
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ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Take up schools' challenge

STUDENTS IN THE West Contra Costa district took to the streets this week to protest deep cuts in programs and staff announced Monday.

The cuts came as a shock to some parents, which is somewhat understandable. Despite repeated warnings that many programs were in danger of being cut, despite the dire financial straits in which districts all over the state find themselves, most of those old enough to be parents now remember school as a place where the availability of languages, music, school libraries and certainly team sports program were a given.

Some short-term relief is coming from local business: \$50,000 from Wells Fargo for sports, \$25,000 from Mechanics Bank for athletics and literacy programs and a promise from the Oakland A's that the team would donate half the proceeds of ticket sales for three Wednesday-night games.

The banks and the A's deserve praise for coming forward so quickly in this time of crisis.

But crisis mode can't be business as usual. The community needs to invest time and money in our schools on a regular, continuing basis for stability. If voters don't want to approve new taxes because they're disgusted with the way the school board has handled its responsibilities in the past, they should vote the current members out and replace them. But our responsibility as parents, business people and members of the community does not end there.

In our letters today is a challenge from Sue Mertens of El Cerrito, suggesting those who voted for the failed Measure J on March 2 — or against it because they didn't trust district management to spend it well — take what their parcel tax would have been and make a direction donation to a local school, a PTA or teacher. Perhaps those who voted against J because they felt they couldn't afford the tax, she adds, could donate whatever they can manage.

She also makes the excellent suggestion that residents can help by offering their time, working in school libraries, collecting trash or pulling weeds.

Though individual donations and volunteers may not be able to keep an entire district's athletic program going, hire back counselors or keep all the libraries open, it's a start. You don't have to be a parent to help. Whether or not you're a parent, you should care. We all should.

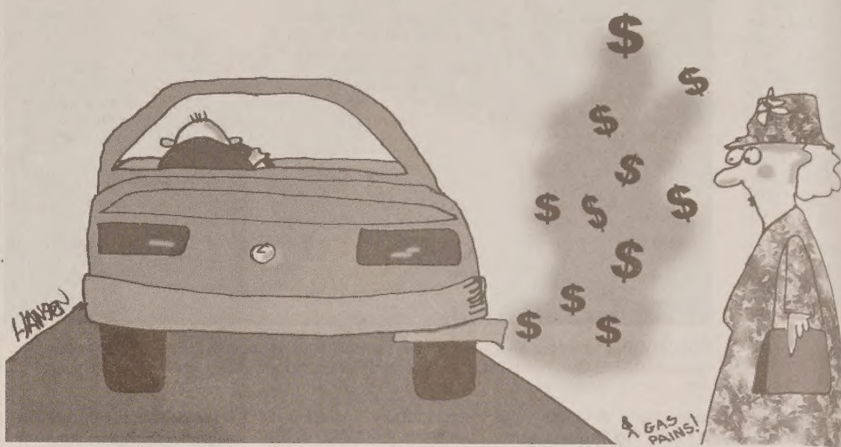
Those kids who left their classrooms and marched in the streets this week made this point clearly: Schools are not places to warehouse youngsters to keep them out of adults' hair for several hours a day, out of sight, out of mind. Students and teachers are part of the community, not something separate.

"Think about the kind of community you want to live in," Mertens writes. "Think even harder about how you can actively and positively contribute to that vision. No one else can do that for you."

We don't think it can be said any better than that.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

GASOLINE PRICES CONTINUE TO RISE



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spirit of Measure J

Since Measure J was not passed on March 2, please consider how you can still make a huge difference in our community.

If you voted for J, take the amount you would have paid in parcel taxes and donate it to your local public school, PTA, or a classroom teacher in the form of cash, gift cards, pencils, paper, tissue, art supplies, etc.

If you voted against J because you did not trust administrators, take the amount you would have paid in parcel taxes and donate it as above.

If you voted against J because you did not believe you could afford it, please donate whatever you can. For example, \$5 can provide 1,000 sheets of paper, a class set of pencils, or a book. If that is still not possible, perhaps you can volunteer to shelve library books, pick up trash, or pull weeds.

If you did not vote, please donate or do whatever you can to help your local public school.

Think about the kind of community you want to live in. Think even harder about how you can actively and positively contribute to that vision. No one else can do that for you.

Sue Mertens
El Cerrito

California's next step

The voters' message is clear. Clean up Sacramento now! Passage of propositions 57 and 58, by a broad mix of voters, is the first step in resolving the state budget crisis.

There is one more step. The Legislature has to reduce state spending now. Cutting spending is an easy task, with no impact on state services. Here is the rationale.

The services delivered in California rank among the lowest in the nation. Elimination of 10 to 20 percent of staff could not reduce any more the quality of services delivered. How could services get worse?

In reality, elimination of dead wood, from the top to the bottom, in all service sectors, would allow delivered services to improve. This is a win-win action. The state budget deficit is solved and the quality of state services improve.

Hal Schultz
El Cerrito

Ads beyond bad taste

The exploitation of heroic fireman in the Bush ads goes beyond bad taste: It was Mayor Giuliani who earned the right to use images of 9/11, not the president.

It was the mayor who showed how to behave as a leader, not George W. Bush, who, not for the first time in his life, cut and ran.

Mike Bloxham
Kensington

Setting record straight

Many of us are getting tired of Democrats trying to say Bush lied and misled them and the public into the war in Iraq. Let's set the record straight.

In February 1998, President Clinton said the United States was determined to deny Iraq the capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction and the missiles to deliver them. He said that if Saddam rejected peace, we would have to use force. At that time, Clinton's National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger said Saddam would use those WMDs again, as he

did 10 times since 1983. Nancy Pelosi said Saddam was engaged in the development of WMD technology and that he made a mockery of the inspection process.

In 2002, Al Gore said: "We know" Saddam has secret supplies of biological and chemical weapons throughout his country. Iraq's search for WMD has proven impossible to deter and we should assume it will continue as long as Saddam is in power.

Also in 2002, several senators voiced their beliefs concerning Saddam and WMD.

Sen. Ted Kennedy said we have known for many years that Saddam was seeking and developing WMD. Sen. Carl Levin stated that it was common knowledge Saddam was a threat to the region and was building WMD and the means to deliver them.

Sen. Robert Byrd said we were confident Saddam had some stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and was seeking nuclear weapons. Sen. Hillary Clinton said Saddam had given aid, comfort and sanctuary to al-Qaida terrorists and that if he were left unchecked, he would continue to increase his capacity to wage biological and chemical warfare, that he would keep trying to build nuclear weapons.

Sen. John Kerry said, "I will be voting to give the president ... authority to use force — if necessary — to disarm Saddam Hussein because I believe that a deadly arsenal of weapons of mass destruction in his hands is a real and grave threat to our security."

And in January 2003, Kerry said that "without question" we need to disarm Saddam, a brutal, murderous dictator who "presents a particularly grievous threat in his consistent grasp" for WMD. Kerry continued that the threat posed by Saddam with WMD "is real."

So, who misled the American people? Methink they speak with forked tongue.

Morris Cleland
El Cerrito

Bush lies again

Bush told us he wouldn't use 9/11 and national security as a political weapon, yet his first ads out last week show visuals of 9/11 and a firefighter's funeral.

Once again, Bush has lied to us. Once again, Bush is using national security as a political weapon. Once again, Bush is using the misfortune of thousands of Americans (9/11 victims and our soldiers killed in combat, as well as their families and loved ones) to bolster his sagging fortunes.

This kind of arrogant disregard for the grieving must stop. Bush's lies must be exposed, over and over again, until all the fair-minded, compassionate people of this country get up and go vote him and his cronies out of office!

Lois Nancy Snow
Albany

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

MAIL: 4301 Lakeside Drive,
Richmond, CA 94530

FAX: 510-243-3574

E-MAIL: journal@cctimes.com

Federal funding

It has become the practice of publications to refer to the transfer of our tax moneys as "federal funding" "state funding."

That tends to conceal the fact that our money.

Since governments have no source of income other than the taxes, tariffs, fees levied on us citizens, it would be fair to identify the source of the funds. Reminders of how our money spent couldn't be all bad.

George Adams
El Cerrito

Bush ads

I wish a ground swell of television watchers would respond to the ads. President Bush is sharing with a captive audience. The audience at times consists of viewers of all ages.

I would ask us to consider if these are appropriate for young children. They can and they cause undue concern, or invasion of young children's feelings of security in their own neighborhood? Will children blindly accept pictures they may have seen before concerning the efforts of the firemen at Twin Towers in New York or will they think it can happen anywhere and President Bush can save them from a cataclysmic event?

Television can be very invasive. I am sure we parents are aware of the effect of television ads on children for products, but do we evaluate the political ads of the in-your-face political ads on our daily lives? Children are also part of the audience.

Mary E. Chale-Porter
Kensington

A good start

I realize my letter will arrive after election, but some things deserve attention.

On Feb. 26, West Contra Costa school board member George Harris (with school board member Patricia Player) presented a recommendation of the budget subcommittee.

Finally, they identified specific programs and positions that would be cut from budget cuts with the passage of Measure J. This is the sort of information that should have been presented with proposal of Measure J. But better late than never.

I encourage the school board to accept this budget proposal and then stick to it, including the 12 percent non-school administration cuts.

This is the way budgets should be decided: start at the top, inform the public of the specific areas to be affected, then follow it — to the letter.

This is a good start. I hope to see it in the future.

Susan L. Phipps
Hills

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

House of Representatives

Barbara Lee: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley, most of Oakland) 414 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202-225-2661. Fax: 202-225-9817; 1301 Clay St., Ste. 1000N, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-763-0370. Fax: 510-763-6538. E-mail: barbara.lee@mail.house.gov.

3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

EBMUD

David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington). E-mail: Oakport@igc.org

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Siri: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsiri@ebparks.org

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083, e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.steged.dst.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395
Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

Authors, poets, a dad and dogs at library conference



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

of the week:
are writers in Ger-
who drink the Absolute
er; and there are books
even the dogs make
to the Infinite."
Friedrich Von Schegel,
1839, from the "Colum-
encyclopedia"

ENT LAST WEEK at the
conference for the Pub-
ary Association (PLA),
le. There are many
ferences: American Li-
Association (ALA) and
ia Library Association
are good examples. But
are good examples. But
unique in that it is just
librarians. So, if you
8,000 of them in
convention center,
an idea of what it

conference began with
author and columnist
Gundien, who spoke
lifelong love of
and William Gates, se-

Gates apologized for be-
instead of his son but,
he was articulate, charm-
and funny, it didn't seem
was substituting for
He talked about the

Gates Foundation and its com-
mitment to the vision of "If
you can get to the library, you
can get to the Internet," which
was the impetus for their pro-
gram in which 47,000 comput-
ers have been installed in
11,000 libraries. When he was
talking about the importance of
libraries, he told us: "You don't
close hospitals during epi-
demics, you don't cut employ-
ment benefits during a reces-
sion and you shouldn't close
libraries during hard times."
Now that's support.

There were over 100 pro-
grams offered over a three-day
period, so it was difficult for
me to choose. It helped that
some of them were held at 8:30
a.m., since I have never been
described as a morning person.
But that didn't eliminate many,
so I had to make choices.

I ended up with quite a vari-

ety. There was one on furnish-
ing teen areas, one on fund-
raising, one on great fiction
and non-fiction for grades 5
and up. The librarian who did
the book talking for the non-
fiction was incredible — I
wanted to read every book she
described. I even went to one
that was basically three won-
derful poets reading their
work, while we relaxed and lis-
tened.

But my favorite was the
workshop on the program
called R.E.A.D., which stands
for Reading Education Assis-
tance Dogs. I had heard about
this program a few years ago
and thought it sounded inter-
esting, so I was glad to have
the opportunity to find out
more about it. I think there is
no way to describe it so that it
doesn't sound like a joke, but
I'll tell you, anyway.

The R.E.A.D. program in-
volves young children reading
aloud to dogs, in a library. The
dogs are therapy dogs, which
means they have been trained
to work with children and
adults in settings like hospitals
and rest homes, where they
provide companionship and af-
fection. The idea is that dogs

provide a non-judgmental audi-
ence for the kids, so that they
aren't embarrassed if they
struggle as they read. We
watched news clips about the
program, which included inter-
views with the children, who
love the program and the dogs.
It was moving to watch them
carefully pronouncing their
words, as they lolled against
the side of a large dog or held
a small one in their laps. It is a
great literacy program and I
hope you will be hearing more
about it from me.

READER REVIEW: This
week's book review is from
David and the book is Kathy
Reich's "Bare Bones." This
book is "a mystery that in-
volves tying together clues
from various bones of humans,
bears and a bird, with drug
smuggling and exotic wildlife."
One word David would use to
describe it is "methodical" and
he recommends it because "the
description of the work a
forensic anthropologist does is
fascinating."

Reach librarian Julie Winkel-
stein at [jwinkelstein@acli-
brary.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@acli-
brary.org) or at the Albany Li-
brary.

ALBANY PTA NEWS

Albany PTA Council

March 18, North Region SELPA Meet-
ing, "Catching the Kangaroo: Helping
the Child with ADD or ADHD Succeed
at Home and School," 7-8:30 p.m.,
Ocean View Library, for more infor-
mation call 510-337-2352.

Albany High School

Interested parents may receive the
daily bulletin and important an-
nouncements by e-mail. Contact
Linda Okamoto at
ltopm@earthlink.net

March 13, AHS Site Clean-up, 10
a.m.-1 p.m., Bring gloves, pruning
shears, rakes, brooms and wheelbar-
rows, for more information call Kim
Linden at 510-528-9141 or 510-610-
1625 (cell)

March 16, Athletic Boosters Meeting,
7 p.m., AHS Library May 8, Cougar
Golf Classic to benefit AHS Baseball
Boosters, 12:30 p.m., Tilden Park
Golf Course, \$135 per golfer, call 510-
525-2608 or e-mail [Golf4AHSBase-
ball@aol.com](mailto:Golf4AHSBase-
ball@aol.com)

Scrip orders: call Norm Rossman at
510-558-0418, e-mail: [norm@norm-
ski.com](mailto:norm@norm-
ski.com)

Albany Middle School

Receive the daily bulletin and impor-
tant announcements by e-mail. Con-
tact Frances Santiago at [santi-
agofrances@hotmail.com](mailto:santi-
agofrances@hotmail.com)

Scrip orders: Call Dorothy Brown at
510-524-3123 or e-mail: [dorothy-
cmc@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothy-
cmc@yahoo.com)

Cornell Elementary School

Receive announcements by e-mail.
Contact Barbara Grady-Ayer at
gradyayer@aol.com

Scrip orders: Call Mark Priven 510-
528-2082 or e-mail: [privwest@pac-
bell.net](mailto:privwest@pac-
bell.net)

Marin Elementary School

Receive announcements by e-mail.
Contact Kym Sterner at [kym-
sterner@earthlink.net](mailto:kym-
sterner@earthlink.net)

March 17, PTA Meeting, 8:30-10 a.m.,
Marin Staff Room

Scrip orders: Call Helene Class at
510-526-4902 or e-mail:
h.class@att.net

Paper Scrip for sale in the office Mon-
day, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30
a.m.; Monday and Friday at 9:30 a.m.

Ocean View Elementary School

March 25, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.,
Ocean View Library

Scrip orders: Call Laurie Amaro at
510-525-0476

RECYCLE used computer printer car-
tridges from your home or office.
Look for bins in the library.

AUSD Board of Education

March 23, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.,
Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

THANKS to Albany SchoolCARE (an
independent fundraising organization)
for their ongoing efforts to sell SCRIP
benefitting Albany PTAs.

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Amazon.com, drugstore.com and
Lands' End. Up to 20 percent of
every purchase goes back to your
school. Also, don't forget to support
your local merchants who support Al-
bany schools!

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at
510-525-0363 or e-mail: [kaywe-
instein@yahoo.com](mailto:kaywe-
instein@yahoo.com)

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

2004 GRAD NIGHT: The 2004 Grad
Night Committee needs parents to
help sell tickets for its opportunity
drawing. "Here's your chance to call
upon those friends and family mem-
bers who have never been able to
purchase gift wrap or candy because
they live too far away," say organizers.
There are cash prizes.

The opportunity drawing will take place
at Casino Night on March 20. For in-
formation call Vicki Berndt at 510-525-
0644 or e-mail vberndt@comcast.net

CASINO NIGHT: Speaking of Casino
Night, the blues-influenced jazz quar-
tet Smooth has been added to the
line-up of entertainment. Singers are
Jeanne Walpole, Dennis Fortin, Mike
Lipsky, and Joe Pratt, and their rep-
ertoire ranges from early traditional
blues tunes to Duke Ellington, Count
Basie, and Antonio Carlos Jobim to
present-day R&B. Casino Night also

features hors d'oeuvres, desserts and
a no-host bar. Proceeds go to support
student scholarship awards and the
creation of a Copy Center at ECHS.
Suggested donation for tickets is \$20
each in advance (\$25 at the door). To
order tickets or for more information,
contact Casino Night Chair Marty
Takimoto at 510-237-6183 or e-mail
takimoto@berkeley.edu.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Albert-
sons and the ECHS PTSA are working
hard to get the word out about the
store's Community Partner Program.
This program gives 4 percent of the
shoppers' purchases directly back to
the high school with zero cost to the
shoppers. Anyone who would like to
get the word out by helping to distrib-
ute informational fliers may contact
Joann Steck-Bayat at [jsbayat@com-
cast.net](mailto:jsbayat@com-
cast.net).

— Source: ECHS e-mail tree

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

members from the AARP
Library Association of Retired
are offering free tax
preparation services to
taxpayers with middle
incomes, with special at-
tention to those 60 years and
older. The Albany Library on
Saturdays from 12:30 to 4:30
through April. Make ap-
pointments at the Library's Ref-
erence Desk.

Albany Library and the
Alameda County Bar Association
are offering free legal assistance at the
Library's "Lawyer in the Li-
brary" program on the first Tues-
day of each month. To
schedule a 15-minute consulta-
tion with an attorney, call the li-
brary's Reference Desk at 510-
528-3720, ext. 5. Advance
appointment is required. The next
appointment is April 6, May 4 and June

Albany Library, a branch
of the Alameda County Library,
is at 1247 Marin Ave. In-
formation: 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

The El Cerrito Library hosts
Family Storytime on Saturday,
March 13. Children ages 3 and
up and their families are invited
to the library at 11 a.m. for "Dog
Stories and Crafts." After listen-
ing to stories about dogs and par-
ticipating in some doggy songs,
fingerplays and stretches, each
child will make a "Puppy Paws
Picture Frame" with special
guests from Contra Costa Ani-
mal Services — Tracey and her
waggy-tailed friend, Holly.

The library will host a special
program for National Library
Week: The Three Penny Players
will tell and act out funny and
exciting children's stories on Sat-
urday April 24 at 11 a.m. —for
children age 3 and up.

Readers Anonymous, the li-
brary's book club, meets on the
fourth Tuesday of the month at
7 p.m. The club will discuss "Bel
Canto," by Ann Patchett, on
March 23. Next up: "Peace Like
a River," by Leif Enger (April 27);
"Big Stone Gap," by Adriana Tri-

giani (May 25). Copies of the cur-
rent selection are available at the
Check-out Desk.

The El Cerrito Library, a
branch of the Contra Costa
County Library, is located at 6510
Stockton Ave. For more infor-
mation, call 510-526-7512.

■■■■
The Friends of the Kensing-
ton Library host special Tuesday
night programs. Next up: On
March 16 at 7 p.m., master ma-
gician Alex Gonzalez returns
with his sophisticated magic
show. Tickets required; available
beginning Monday, March 8.

Family Storytimes for all ages
are held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
(except when special programs
are scheduled).

The Kensington Library, a
branch of the Contra Costa
County Library, is at 61 Arling-
ton Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-
1098. Phone: 510-524-3043.

■■■■
The Richmond Public Li-
brary will host Word for Word in

the main library reading room on
Wednesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

The troupe will perform "The
Wonderful Story of
Zaal," a Persian legend by M. and
N. Batmanglij, directed by Molly
Noble.

In the story, Zaal is banished
by his father because of his un-
usual white hair, but is rescued
from death by a magical bird,
Seemorgh.

The free event is for all ages.

Also at Richmond: The library
hosts free films in Spanish with
English subtitles on the second
Thursday of the month, spon-
sored by the Latino Film Festival
of the San Francisco Bay Area
and the Friends of the Richmond
Public Library.

The Richmond Public Library
is at 325 Civic Center Plaza in
Richmond. 510-620-6561.

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Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Ann Fields, 1969 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611; e-mail to afields@cctimes.com or fax to 510-339-4066.

Children

■ **Cal Shakes Theater Lab** offers a child's introduction to Orchestral Instruments Sunday March 14, 3 p.m. at the Pacific Academy, 1615 Carlson Blvd., Richmond. Call 527-6202 for more information. \$10 per family; suitable for young children. Spring Theater Lab 2004 Performance Workshop and Introduction to Improvisation, for students ages 13-18, take place on Saturdays: March 6 to April 24. All classes are at Cal Shakes Rehearsal Hall-701 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. For more information regarding the classes and tuition, call 510-548-3422 x. 127 or e-mail leam@calshakes.org.

■ The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., continues its new spring **pre-school storytime** series through April 24, every Saturday at 11 a.m. The program is free. For more information, call 510-526-3720.

■ **Anna Belle Panish** offers preschool drama activity for children ages 2½ to 5 years with parents at Toy-go-Round, 1361 Solano Ave., Albany. Children will "try on" characters and engage in group dramatic activity. Drop in, held monthly on third Tuesday. No charge. For more information, call Anna Belle at 510-527-1437.

■ **Children's Social Skills and Manners** workshops are offered in Albany on Saturdays for two hours, 3 to 5 p.m. Each workshop lasts for four weeks. Details: Linda, 527-6202.

■ **Teen Support Group** meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. 531-7551.

■ Check out books from the **Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library**. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. 848-0237.

■ El Cerrito offers **special programs** for children from 22 months to 5 years of age designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3½ years meets Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Moeser Lane. 215-4371.

■ The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight **"Support Groups For Mothers,"** sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. Details: 524-0821. Classes

Class

■ Epic Arts continues its production of **"The Bright River,"** a show by Tim Barsky and the Everyday Theater Thursday-Saturday through March 20, at the Transparent Theatre, 1901 Ashby Ave (at MLK), Berkeley. Doors open at 8 p.m. Barsky and Company combine hip-hop, physical theatre, and Jewish folklore for an astonishing effect. Tickets are \$14-20 on a sliding scale, \$12 in advance. No show March 11. Call Epic Arts at 510-644-2204, for more information or directions to the Theatre.

■ **South Berkeley Senior Center** 2939 Ellis St., offers a free aerobics, stretching, strengthening fitness class for adults 55+. The class is taught by Naomi Puro. For more information, call 510-981-5170.

Community

■ **El Cerrito High School's Casino Night**, an annual fundraiser to benefit the entire high school is Saturday, March 20, from 7-11 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center. Tickets are \$20 if reserved in advance or \$25 at the door. To reserve tickets, send an e-mail to jsbayat@comcast.net and your tickets will be held at "will call".

■ Learn about the Edible and Medicinal uses of common weeds as Terri Compost leads an **Urban Weed Walk** exploring the neighborhood around the Ecology Center Saturday, March 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Discover the treasure of an overgrown lot, ripe with wild foods, information about the soil, and medicines. Share information about the gifts of these often unwanted common volunteer plants. Ecology Center, 2530 San

Pablo Ave, near Dwight Way, Berkeley. Details: 510-548-2220, ext. 233.

■ **University of California Botanical Garden** at Berkeley, 200 Centennial Drive, presents its **Spring Bulb Bonanza** March 15 through April 15. The Bonanza takes place during usual Garden Shop hours 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Garden will offer a special large collection of potted bulbs from around the world either blooming or ready to bloom this year, all at incredibly low prices. For more information and registration, call 510-843-2755 or visit the Web site at botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.

■ **Unicorn Pan Asian Cuisine** is donating 25 percent of its proceeds Tuesday, March 23, to the rural Uganda Golo-mola Village AIDS orphanage. Co-sponsored by ACT UP East Bay and Priority Africa Network. Unicorn is at 2533 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. Reservations recommended. For more information, call 510-841-4339.

■ **Cesar Chavez birthday celebration** is Tuesday, March 30, 7-9 p.m. at the Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Join representatives from farm, labor and environmental groups to reflect on the history and explore present struggles for justice and a safe environment. Hear from local farmer Efran Avalos, UFW representative Jorge Riera on efforts to organize Sonoma County vineyards, and Christine Ahn from Food First on the boycott of Taco Bell. Event will also include fresh, organic goodies, video clips, cultural performances, and time for community discussion. 510-548-2220, ext. 233.

■ The third annual **International Women's Month** in March in Berkeley features the following events: Story Dressmaking Workshop with artist, Patricia Bullitt from 1 to 4 p.m. March 13, at the Live Oak Center, Live oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Ave. at Berryman St. (Handicapped ok entrance) Cost: \$25 to \$50 per person at door. Suggested for age 8 and older. Bring art supplies such as paint, glue, stapler, scissors. Photos, buttons, ribbons. The workshop feature singer Bekka Fink, of SF Mime Troupe. Exhibition of story dresses at performance next day: Storytelling Women Performance at 3 p.m. March 14. Presenting: Patricia Bullitt, dancer/storyteller, Becca Fink, Singer/composer, Ruth Halpern, Storyteller, Shanti and Rami Ramrattan, South Indian Classical Dancers Nancy Schimmel, Storyteller. Cost: \$15 to \$35 per person. No one turned away for lack of funds. Location for both performances: Live Oak Center, Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Ave. For more information, call 510-841-6612.

■ **University of California Botanical Garden** at Berkeley, 200 Centennial Drive, offers a one-day conference filled with new ideas, exciting curriculum, practical and clever tips and techniques for starting or enhancing gardens in Bay Area Schools. Workshops will begin at the Lawrence Hall of Science and move to the UC Botanical Garden. Saturday, March 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The conference offers best practices in integrating gardens at schools and sustaining them throughout the year. Join teachers, school volunteers, and youth gardening enthusiasts in a roundtable of hands-on activities with lots of take away resources. \$10 for everyone. For more information call 510-495-2801.

■ **Charcot Marie Tooth** support group meets quarterly from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Albany Library, 1247 Marine Ave. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. For more information, call Gail Whitehouse at 408-425-5629.

■ **The Judah L. Magnes Museum**, 2911 Russell St., presents the exhibit "Brought to Light: The Storied Collections of the Judah L. Magnes Museum" through April 25. Hours: Open Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Jewish and federal holidays. Admission is free. For more information, call 510-549-6950.

■ **Berkeley Neighborhood Computers**, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. 845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netvalue.net.

■ **Berkeley Camera Club** meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565.

■ **TOPS** (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 meets Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. Betty Coates at 235-0490.

■ **Turning Point at the YWCA**, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. For an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like



AS PART OF ITS celebration of Women's History Month, La Peña Cultural Center premieres Los Angeles performer Maria Elena Fernandez in her acclaimed one-woman show "Confessions of a Cha Cha Feminist," an "enormous fun" chronicle of her poignant rebellion against her traditional Mexican upbringing. Saturday March 13., 8 p.m. at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Tickets: \$12. Details: 510-849-2568. From Catholic school girl to cha cha feminist, Fernández tells an inspiring story about forging your own path on the treacherous and exhilarating road to womanhood.

to meet. Anne Levine has a background in design and education. Call 848-6370.

■ **Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services** presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. Register: 644-8736.

■ **Berkeley Art Museum**, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. 642-0808.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the child-care room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. 525-5231.

■ **Toastmasters**, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice Tuesday-noon from 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for details.

■ **Civil Rights** activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

■ **"Work Buddies";** volunteers needed to work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Exhibits

■ **Center for Live Art art auction and gala event** takes place March 27 from 7-11 p.m. at Slingshot Gallery, 1721 63rd St., Berkeley. Center for Live Art is a performing arts center planned for Berkeley's Ashby arts district. Free admission. Details: 510-835-3130 or www.nclt.org/LiveArt.htm

■ **The color photography of Stephen Palmer**, UC Berkeley professor of Cognitive Science, will be on display in an exhibit entitled "The Art of Perception" at the Albany Community Center Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany, from through April 18. These photographs

highlight unusual visual situations such as geometric structure and symmetry in natural patterns and striking color contrasts between figure and ground. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday. A reception for the artist will be held Jan. 25 from 4-6 p.m.

■ The exhibit **Early Women of Berkeley** (1878-1953) and their organizations runs through March 27. The exhibit, curated by the College Women's Club/Berkeley Branch of the American Association of University Women and the Berkeley Historical Society, celebrates how women shaped Berkeley's history, working alone and through their clubs. A women's history lecture series is also planned. At the Berkeley History Center, 1831 Center St. Details: 848-0161. Admission free.

Film/dance/stage

■ **"West Side Story"** by Laurents, Bernstein and Sondheim, will be performed by seventh- to 11th-grade Berkeley schools students and some guest talent from neighboring cities on Friday and Saturday, March 12, 13 and March 19, 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Longfellow Auditorium, 1500 Derby St., Berkeley. Tickets: \$10 adult; \$5 youth. www.buduse.org, bwicnas@pacbell.net or 510-848-1797.

■ **ParaTheatrical** ReSearch presents "Orphans of Delirium" a series of performance rites incorporating Coleidge's "Kubla Khan" at 9 p.m. March 13 and 14, 2525 Eighth St. Berkeley. There will be live sounds and music by Sybil Ali. This rare presentation of "Orphans of Delirium" exhibits a series of para-theatrical rites loosely linked by the stories of a poet gone delirious from the loss of loved ones and compounded by absinthe addiction. \$10. suggested donation. Performances will be videotaped for an experimental documentary by Antero Alli. Audience may be videotaped. Those attending are asked to sign a release form. A second performance takes place at 9 p.m. March 21, at CELSpace, 2050 Bryant in San Francisco. For more information, call 510-464-4640 or visit the Web site at www.para-theatrical.com.

■ Seven female playwrights, seven female directors and about 35 actors (of various persuasions) race the clock to write, rehearse and perform seven brand-new plays within 24 hours at **Woman's Will's 24-Hour PlayFest** The final two hours on Monday, March 15 (The Ides of March) at 8 p.m. at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640

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CAFE DE LA PAZ, 1600 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley, presents nights of food and wine, dance and music featuring Grammy winner Yaelisa and the Caminos Flamencos Company on Sunday, March 13 and 14 with performances of flamenco each night. Tickets, which include a three-course, "Nuevo Latino" dinner, are \$42 regular seating or \$55 seating (first and second rows). Reservations: 510-849-2568. www.cafedelapaz.com.

College Ave. in Berkeley. Enjoy a seat-of-the-pants performance where anything can happen and does. Tickets are \$10-\$25 sliding scale. Details: 510-420-0813

■ **Alvin Alley American Dance Theater** returns to UC Berkeley March 9 through 14, at Zellerbach Hall, 101 Zellerbach Hall. Admission: \$32, \$42 and \$58. Tickets available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at 510-642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

■ **Berkeley Copwatch** presents the new documentary "The Streets Are Watching" a 50-minute video by independent filmmaker, Jacob Crawford that looks at police accountability through the eyes of three communities; Denver, Cincinnati and Berkeley. The screening is on Tuesday, March 23, at 9:15 p.m. at the Parkway Theatre, 1834 Park Blvd. in Oakland. Admission: \$5. Details: 510-814-2400

■ Learn easy international folk dances, fun for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Ave. No experience

needed. Wear comfortable shoes. Come prepared for a good workout. Adults \$2, kids \$1, 1130.

■ **Friday Night Folk** dances taught from Israel, Turkey, Near East lands each Friday from 7 to 11 p.m. No experience all ages welcome. Albany Kains Ave.; \$4; call 528-0130.

■ **Family Folkdancing** on third Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. Music and Dance Center 1317 San Pablo Ave. Heidi Schultz Weiss. Bring your spirit of fun. No experience. An opportunity for families to laugh together. Drop in to learn and exercise. All ages welcome. class, no registration needed. children \$2. Details: 533-0333.

■ **Swing Dance Class** coast swing and Lindy Hop

See CALENDAR

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Health

Learning

Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave.,
offering ongoing **chess instruction**
from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The
range from fundamental to ad-
vanced topics, and also casual play.
The program is led by David Pruess,
who has the Senior Master title and is

■ **Dance and fitness classes** open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theater dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning

Literature

■ A free publication party and reading from "In Deep," a book of poetry by Kirk Lumpkin, takes place 4-6 p.m. Sunday, March 28 at Ecology Center Bookstore, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Preceded and followed by live jazz performed by the Real Band. Details: 510-548-2220, ext. 227; www.kirklumpkin.com.

See CALENDAR, Page A8



BERKELEY REP SCHOOL OF THEATRE presents the 2003-04 School Touring Production "True Mysteries Presents: Code Blue at the Genome Zoo" two public performances only Saturday, March 20, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. The production, originally produced by San Francisco's Exploratorium and recommended for ages 7 and up, incorporates music and mystery to make advanced biology accessible to audiences of all ages. Code Blue, a timely lesson in genome-mapping, is scientifically challenging enough for middle school students, but dynamic and entertaining enough to engage younger audiences. Tickets: \$10 general admission, available at www.berkeleyrep.org or call 510.647.2949 for avoid handling fees

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Calendar

FROM PAGE A7

■ **Author Jim Augustyn**, whose books of cat wisdom expose the secrets of solar politics and science, comes to the Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., near Dwight Way, Berkeley on Thursday, March 18, from 7-9 p.m. Augustyn's first book, 1979's "The Solar Cat Book" was an instant hit with solar energy enthusiasts. Since then he has continued to work as an independent engineering consultant and researcher in the solar field, focusing on solar energy resource assessment and measuring the performance of solar energy systems. Details: 510-548-2220 x233.

Meetings/Lectures

■ **The League of Women Voters - West Contra Costa County** will meet on Tuesday, March 16 in the third floor conference room of the El Cerrito Royale, 5610 Gladys Ave., El Cerrito. The business meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed at 12:15 p.m. Jonna Papaefthymiou from the Sierra Club will speak on environmental issues in West Contra Costa County. We welcome all to bring a brown bag lunch and join us for this informative meeting.

■ **The League of Women Voters** sponsors Dr. Marty Lynch, CEO of Berkeley's Lifelong Medical Care Association, and other professionals at 6:30 p.m. March 22, at the Berkeley Central Library, 2090 Kittredge St., third floor meeting room. The discussion will focus on the current Universal health care system, Medicare, recent reform efforts, single payer plans, and incremental approaches to the system. For more information, call 510-843-8824.

■ **Grizzly Peak Flyfishers**, a group dedicated to furthering the noble sport of fly fishing through education and conservation, holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. March 11, at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., in Kensington. Cliff Sullivan, a well-known fly tier will show some of his patterns and demonstrate his techniques. Expert, beginning and "wannabe" fly fishers are all welcome. For more information, call Richard Orlando at 510-547-8629.

■ **Powerhounds**, a ski, snowboard and social club meet the second Tuesdays, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Oakland Hilton, Amelia restaurant, 1 Hegenberger Rd., and fourth Tuesdays 7 to 9 p.m. at Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-769-7669 or visit the Web site at www.powerhounds.com.

■ **Berkeley Camera Club** meet Tuesday evenings, 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 510-525-3565 or visit the Web site at www.berkeleycameraclub.org.

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** meet on Tuesday mornings at 2727 College Ave. Sharon Staikfield will speak about her ministry to four local nursing homes at 11 a.m. Dec. 16. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call 510-845-6830.

■ **Albany Library**, 1247 Marin Ave., presents poetry events: First Thursdays include Open Mike and Featured Poet sessions from 7 to 9 p.m. Second Wednesdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops, for all ages. Second Saturdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops for grades 4-8. All three events are free and on-going. Light refreshments will be served. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 20 for more information.

■ **Storytelling for Adults**, a group of storytellers, and listeners, who love to listen to stories, to keep the oral tradition alive, meet from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on the first Thursday each month at the Claremont Branch, Berkeley Public Library, 1940 Benvenue, at Ashby. Free. 610-644-6880; or 525-1533.

■ **The Reading Edge** is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge St. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability who requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call at 644-6848 to set up a training session.

■ **The El Cerrito Toastmasters** offers basic public speaking and leadership activities and programs. Speakers of all skill levels are invited to come, observe and participate. Meetings occur every second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. For more information contact Jim Bruce at jim@peachpit.com.

■ **Kol Hadash**, the Bay Area's only Jewish Humanistic Congregation, with more than 110 family members from around the Bay Area, meets on the fourth Friday of each month for a regular Shabbat (Sabbath), every other month on a Saturday for a Family Shabbat. The group holds Sunday school classes two Sundays a month, celebrates all the major Jewish holidays and holds special events from time to time. Location: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. 428-1492.

Miscellany

■ **Poetry Express** holds a weekly open mike at Priya Indian Cuisine, 2072 San Pablo Ave. (near University) Berkeley, at 7 p.m. After 5 p.m., mention the reading for a 20 percent discount on a meal. Hosted by Mark States, the April 5 session features Joe Finkleman and a second anniversary celebration. Info: email berkeleypoetryexpress@yahoo.com

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** in Berkeley offers ongoing classes at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. Classes include exercise, ceramics, copper enameling, woodworking, weaving, creative writing, and tap dancing (Thursdays). New members are always welcome, especially seniors over 50. Call 845-6830 for more information.

■ The Center for Independent Living announces its newly created **Asian Outreach Program** to assist Asian individuals with disabilities, particularly new immigrants. Providing services and advocacy in Cantonese, Vietnamese, and English, program staff are culturally sensitive and knowledgeable of community and government service available to individuals with disabilities. For more information, call CIL at 510-763-9999.

■ **Friendship Circle**, a Jewish club for older adults, meet 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Oakland Senior Center, 200 Grand Ave. The club is an outreach program of Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center. Activities include day trips, Jewish holiday celebrations, theater outings, entertainment, speaker and much more. Call Maria at 848-0237 ext. 115 for details.

■ Improve your speaking skills by attending **Berkeley Communicators' Toastmaster** meetings, the first and third Wednesdays each month at 7:15 a.m. at Vault's Cafe, 3250 Adeline St. Call 527-2337 for more information.

■ **The Berkeley Camera Club** meets Tuesday evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more details call Don at 525-3565.

■ **Disabled American Veterans** Chapter 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2068 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more details call R. DeRiti, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

■ **The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters** Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillegass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For details, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

■ **The Kensington Senior Activity Center** meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Details: 526-9146 or 547-1969.

■ **Speak Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters**. The Smart Club Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

■ **Toastmasters**: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for more information.

■ **The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group** meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. For additional information call 204-4503.

■ **Toastmasters on Campus** meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

■ **"Voices of Healing"** is a group exploring the psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of

each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

■ **State Health Toastmasters** meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10-1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

■ **Higher Alignment**; 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; 415-461-5337; \$20.

■ **Alta Bates Support Groups** - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous**, a 12-step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

■ **TOPS**; 9:30 a.m., Mondays: Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannage St. at Marin; 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6858.

■ **Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center** and **East Bay Neurology** sponsors a free monthly **stroke support group**. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight way, Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

Music

■ **The Sheldon Brown Group** perform two sets at 8 p.m. March 13, at the Jazz-school, 2087 Addison St. in Berkeley. The group includes Sheldon Brown on sax and clarinet; Dave MacNab, guitar; Matt Clark, piano; Michael Wilcox, bass; and Alan Hall, drums. Admission: \$15; students and seniors, \$12; jazz-school students and children under 12, \$10. Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations and information: 510-845-5373.

■ **The Berkeley Broadway Singers**, a 75-member chorus, will present "Pennies from Heaven," at 2 p.m. March 20, at St. Ambrose Church, its rehearsal home, 1145 Gilman St. (corner of Cornell) Berkeley. The concert is a benefit to improve the church's handicapped access and for earthquake retrofitting. Tickets: \$10, \$8-seniors, children free. Call 510-524-7840 for more information

■ Join classical Indian bansuri (flute) player Maestro G.S. Sachdev and percussionist Swapna Chaudhuri on tabla for a special spring equinox performance of **North Indian ragas** at 7:30 p.m. March 20, at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. Tickets are \$15 and partly benefit newsweekstickets. Call 415-259-8629 or e-mail for tickets, or stop by Bansuri's Spring Gallery, 3929 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

■ **Berkeley Chamber Performances** presents the **Empyrean Ensemble** and an evening with pianist **Ami Dissanayake** on Tuesday, March 23, at 8 p.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. The concert is part of "Celebrating Women in Music," a statewide festival in March of orchestras programming works by women composers and engaging women conductors in honor of National Women's History Month. Featured performers on this concert with Dissanayake are Terrie Baune, violin, Thalia Moore, cello, Anna Kruger, viola, and Peter Josheff, clarinet. Tickets are \$20 and will be available at the door, or send a check in the appropriate amount to BCP 259 Yale Ave., Kensington, CA 94708 (order form available online at www.berkeleychamberperform.org).

Outdoors

■ The UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Strawberry Canyon, offers a **free sick plant clinic** on the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon. Dr. Raabe will diagnose. Details: 643-2755.

■ **Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds**: house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myra 531-3042 or Lelia 655-3911.

■ **East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden** Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

Religion

■ **Kol Hadash**, the Bay area's only Jewish Humanistic Congregation, meets at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave., for a regular Shabbat (Sabbath), usually on the fourth Friday of each month, a Family Shabbat every other month on a Saturday, hold Sunday School classes two Sundays a month, celebrate all the major Jewish holidays, and hold special events from time to time. The group also collects non-perishable food for the needy. Upcoming events: Hadash Brown Bag Family Shabbat with Rabbi Kai Eckstein from noon to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 13. Topic: "King Solomon"; Bring lunch for your family, and (finger) dessert to share; juice provided. Kol Hadash Hanukkah Shabbat/Pot Luck Dinner with Rabbi Kai Eckstein at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 19. Light the first candle of Hanukkah and enjoy the music of the Klezmermanists. Call 510-428-1492 or email kolhadash@aol.com for information and pot luck assignments.

Support

■ **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-East Bay Chapter**, sponsors a support group for families of children with mental illness. The next meetings is from 7 to 8:45 p.m. Feb. 17, at Albany United Methodist Church, 980 Stannage St., in Albany. Meetings are free and offers parents and other family members a chance to talk with others. The public is invited. For more information, call NAMI-East Bay at 510-524-1250.

■ If you have lost someone you love to cancer, come for gentle guidance through the basic steps of grieving at the **Women's Cancer Resource Center**, 5741 Telegraph Ave. Grief Information Sessions take place from 6-7:30 p.m. Dec. 8, or 6-7:30 p.m. Dec. 22. RSVP 510-420-7900 for more information, or visit www.wrcrc.org.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous**- Have a problem with food? Twelve-step support groups dealing with these issues meet at 10:30 a.m. Sundays at Mandana Community Recovery Center, 3989 Howe St. in Oakland (enter on 41st Street Way); 7:30 Wednesdays at Piedmont Community Church, 400 Highland (enter on Mountain, parallel to Highland); 7:30 Thursdays at Piedmont Gardens, 110 41st Street; and 6 p.m. Fridays at East Bay Church of Religious Science, 4130 Telegraph Avenue. For other meetings or more information, call 510-923-9491.

■ **Jewish Family and Children's Services** of the East Bay offers the following community support groups: —Divorce Support Group: Pre-registration required. Wednesday evenings. Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay in Walnut Creek. Call Dr. Carla Haimowitz at 925-927-2000.

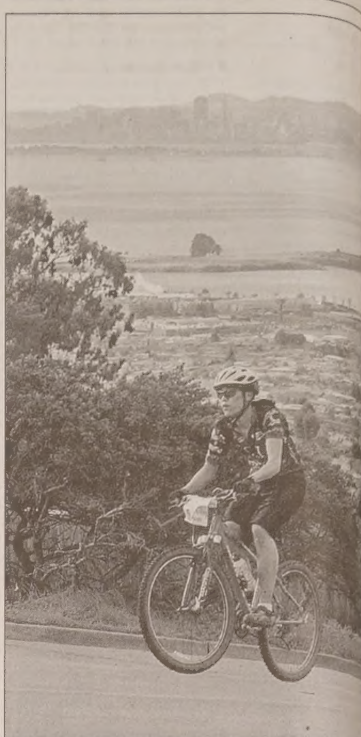
—Bereavement Support Groups: No Charge. Pre-registration required. Wednesdays, 4:30-6 p.m., JFCS/East Bay in Berkeley, 510-704-7480 ext. 968. Thursdays, 3-4:30 p.m., JFCS/East Bay in Walnut Creek, 925-927-2000 ext. 740.

—Cancer Support Group: No charge. Tuesdays from 12:30 - 2 p.m., Markstein Center, room 2810, 2nd floor, 450 30th Street, Oakland. Call 510-869-8833.

—Support Group for Women 60 Years and Older: Finally, a special group for older single women. Explore new options for coping with life transitions, making new friendships, dealing with family and peer relationships, and changing old habits. Pre-registration required. Second and fourth Mondays from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Berkeley/Richmond Jewish Community Center. Fee: \$10/session. Call Marti Kutnik LCSW at 510-704-7480 ext. 740.

—Interfaith Couples Group: Thursdays, 7:15-9:15 p.m. at Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay in Berkeley. Call Cathy Diamond, MFT at 510-704-7480 ext. 225.

—Social Skills and Anger Management for Boys: A special group for 7-9 year old boys expressing anger and other feelings inappropriately, or are having difficulty making and keeping friends. Pre-registration required. Mondays, 4-5:15 p.m. at Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay in



ALVIN CHANG pedals the last 100 yards of the steep climb at 11:19 a.m. Feb. 18. Photographers from Contra Costa Newspapers and Hills Newspapers converged on El Cerrito Kensington that day to document life over a 24-hour photo and others are on display at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane.

Berkeley. Fee: \$40/session. Sliding scale and medical accepted. Call David Edelson, MA, MFT at 510-704-7480 ext. 267.

■ **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-East Bay Chapter** sponsors a support group to provide information and support to families of children and adolescents with mental illness. The next meeting is from 7 to 8 p.m. Feb. 18, at Albany United Methodist Church, 980 Stannage St., in Albany. Support meetings are free and offer parent and other family members a chance to talk with others in order to share information and get emotional support. For more information, call NAMI-East Bay at 510-524-1250.

■ **Women's Cancer Resource Center** offers support groups throughout the Bay area. If you are interest in attending

a group, call the Helpline at 925-927-2000 during the Center's hours a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through to 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays.

■ **Bereavement Support Groups** meet Thursdays, 3-4:30 p.m. at Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay in Walnut Creek. Topics include: grief, loss, isolation, anger and unexpressed emotions; changing habits; and re-establishing contact with your community. Respite care in a warm, Jewish context (donations accepted). Pre-registration required. Call Marti Kutnik at 927-2000 ext. 740. The group is sponsored by Sinai Memorial and Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay

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Kid Stuff

REPERTORY SCHOOL OF
— True Mysteries Pre-
the Blues at the Genome
March 20, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. A
interpretation of the hidden mi-
world of laboratory science
research. For ages 7 and

Stage, 2015 Addison St.,
510-647-2949, 888-4BRTIX
www.kidstuff.org.

SPACE AND SCIENCE CEN-
— Kids-at-the-art facility unify-
education activities
astronomy. Center Admission:
\$5 seniors and youths
12; free children ages 3 and
Megadome
\$5 general, \$5 seniors and
to 12; free children
under Friday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.;
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.;
Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 10000 Skyline
Avenue, 510-336-7300 or
www.space.org.

FAIRYLAND USA — A
theme park featuring more
fantasy sets. De-
specially for children age 10
there are gentle rides, a
"Peter Rabbit Village," pup-
story-telling and lots of
animals.

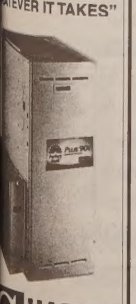
SHOWBOAT — All shows are at
Showboat Theatre. They
Friday through Sunday, 11
a.m. and 4 p.m. Free with reg-
admission.

through April 8. All wish
brothers who all live to
a sister girl. The girl's mother
dispute by challenging the
to capture a leprechaun that
a terrible blight in Ireland. It
brother, working with
that captures the leprechaun,
for their request for
of his gold to restore the
restores all of Ireland to its
glory.

LYONS — Jacquelyn Ly-
on 13 and March 14, 1:30
to 2:30 p.m. Lady Emerald per-
and Tunes from Celtic
March 20 and March 21, 1:30
to 2:30 p.m. A sing-along and
Caribbean beats.
includes unlimited rides,
guest entertainers and
free children under
by a Magic Key. No adult
without an adult. Friday-Sun-
to 4 p.m., weather per-
88 Bellevue Ave., Oakland.
510-559-9500 or
www.fairlyland.org.

WORTH STREET —
"Worth Time," Saturdays,
through Wednesday, 10
Thursday through Sat-
to 6 p.m. 1730 Fourth
510-559-9500 or
www.worth.com.

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Savings
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Electric

HABITOT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM — A
museum especially for children ages
7 and younger. Highlights include
"WaterWorks," an area with some un-
usual water toys, an Infant Tree for ba-
bies, a garden especially for toddlers,
a child-scale grocery store and cafe,
and a costume shop and stage for ju-
nior thespians. The museum also fea-
tures a toy lending library.

EXHIBITS — "Waterworks." A water
play gallery with rivers, a pumping
station and a water table. Designed to
teach about water.

"Little Town Grocery and Cafe." De-
signed to create the ambience of
shopping in a grocery store and eat-
ing in a restaurant.

"Infant-Toddler Garden." A picket-fence
gated indoor area which includes a
carrot patch with wooden carrots to
be harvested, a pretend pond and a
butterfly mobile to introduce young-
sters to the concept of food, garden-
ing and agriculture.

"Dramatic Arts Stage." Settings, back-
drops and costumes coincide with
seasonal events and holidays. Chil-
dren can exercise their dramatic fire
here.

"Wiggle Wall." The floor-to-ceiling "un-
derground" tunnels give children a
worm's eye view of the world. The
tunnels are laced with net covered
openings and giant optic lenses.

\$5 general; \$6 children ages 7 and un-
der; free children under 12 months.
Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to
1 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m.
to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 7
p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2065 Kit-
tridge Street, Berkeley. 510-647-1111
or www.habitot.org.

HALL OF HEALTH — **EXHIBITS** —
"This Is Your Heart!" ongoing. An in-
teractive exhibit on heart health.

"Good Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit
includes models for making balanced
meals and an exercise for calculating
how calories are burned.

"Draw Your Own Insides," ongoing. Hu-
man-shaped chalkboards and models
with removable organs allow visitors
to explore the inside of their bodies.
"Your Cellular Self and Cancer Preven-
tion," an exhibit on understanding
how cells become cancerous and
how to detect and prevent cancer.
Suggested \$3 donation; free children
under 3. Tuesday through Saturday,
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave.,
Berkeley. 510-549-1564 or
www.hallofhealth.org.

JUNIOR CENTER OF ART AND SCIENCE — A center dedicated to en-
couraging children's active wonder
and creative response through artistic
and scientific exploration of their nat-
ural urban environment. The center's
classes, workshops, exhibits and
events integrate art and science.

Free; programs and special exhibits
have a fee. Through May: Tuesday
through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat-
urday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 558 Bellevue

Ave., Oakland. 510-839-5777 or
www.juniorcenter.org.
LA PENIA CULTURAL CENTER — Los
Mapaches, March 13, 10:30 a.m. The
Latin American Children's ensemble
will present a musical journey
throughout the Americas. \$4 adults;
\$3 children.

"Me, Jay's Playhouse," March 20, 10:30
a.m. Music and movement for family
and friends. \$4 general; \$3 children.
3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-
2568 or www.lapena.org.

LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE —
EXHIBITS — "Approaching Chaos,"
through May 24. An exhibit of striking
images that explore classical and
wave chaos by Harvard physicist E.J.
Heller who transforms mathematical
algorithms into images offering a
glimpse into the mysterious world of
quantum physics.

SPECIAL EVENT — "Robotics," March
13, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. While geologic
robots explore Mars, look at a line of
robots that can be made for Earth.

\$8.50 general; \$6.50 seniors, students,
disabled, and youths ages 5 to 18;
\$4.50 children ages 3 to 4; free chil-
dren ages 2 and younger. Daily, 10
a.m. to 5 p.m. Centennial Drive, UC
Berkeley. 510-642-5132 or
www.lhs.berkeley.edu.

OAKLAND ZOO — **SPECIAL EVENTS** —
"Bedtime with the Beasts," March
13 and March 14 and March 19 and
March 20. A chance for youth ages 6
to 8 and their adult chaperones to
spend the night in the Oakland Zoo
and get a special look at what goes
on there after the gates close for the
evening. An Oakland Zoo specialist
will lead the group on a special
evening tour of the Zoo and then
campers can snuggle down in the
comfort of the Education Building.
Reservations required. Saturday and
Sunday, 510-632-9525, ext. 142.

St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Free train
rides for anyone wearing green.

"Birds, Bagels and Binoculars," March
20, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Join bird en-
thusiasts for a walking tour and con-
tinental breakfast on this expedition to
discover the wild birds that live in and
around the Oakland Zoo. Bring binoc-
ulars and a bird book. Wear shoes
comfortable for walking. Reservations
required. 510-632-9526, ext. 142.

Earth Watch Lecture and Reception.
March 21, 4 p.m. "Wildlife Trails of the
American West," a lecture by con-
servation biologist William Newark of his
latest findings on wildlife trail ecology
and the design of efficient wildlife cor-
ridors in the American West. 4 p.m.
Meet the Speaker. 4:30 p.m.: lecture.
At the Peoplesoft Center for Science
and Education. Reservations required.
510-632-9525, ext. 142.

"Family Sundown Safari," March 27 and
March 28. Fun and educational expe-
rience in the unique environment of
the Oakland Zoo. Spend an evening
with the animals and camp out in the
Zoo meadow overnight. Reservations
required. Saturday, 6 p.m. to Sunday,
10 a.m. 510-632-9525, ext. 100.

\$8.50 general; \$5 seniors and children
ages 2 to 14; free children under age
2; \$4 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4
p.m. Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links
Road, Oakland. 510-632-9525 or
www.oaklandzoo.org.

Eastshore State Park effort advances

WITH ITS GENERAL
plan approved, and \$1.7
million in state funds
available for initial development,
the Eastshore State Park project
is taking its first steps toward
turning concept into reality.

The general plan envisions a
20-year development timeline
that will probably cost more
than \$100 million, in the estima-
tion of Larry Tong, interagency
planning manager for the East
Bay Regional Park District. "It's
a big project, but we are moving
forward where we can, with the
resources available," Tong said.

The Eastshore State Park
comprises more than 2,000
acres along 8½ miles of San
Francisco Bay shoreline be-
tween Oakland and Richmond.
Acting as agent for the state, the
park district acquired the prop-
erty from the Santa Fe/Catellus
Development Corp., and cleaned
up contaminated areas, at a to-
tal cost of more than \$33 mil-
lion, using funds from state
park bond act revenues and the
park district's Measure AA. Now
the state is taking the lead on
the initial development
phase. According to Tong, the
focus is on two projects.

One focus is restoration and
resource enhancement of the
Berkeley Meadow, an area of
about 75 acres located between
University Avenue and the
North Basin. Plans call for a
study to identify any hazardous
material present, debris re-
moval, enhancement and
preservation of about 16 acres
of wetlands, fencing, perimeter
and internal trails, and interpre-
tive signs for nature study. Tong
said the work will probably start
later this year.



PARK IT
Ned MacKay

Also in the works is a water-
bird study at North Basin to
evaluate the impact of non-mo-
torized boating on the wildlife.

The other major focus is the
Brickyard, a 30 acre area just
south of University Avenue in
Berkeley. Here the state is
putting together a master facili-
ties plan to firm up the details of
what will go there. Plans call for
a park operations/visitor center,
a cafe/deli, rest rooms, and a
concession operation for rental
of recreational equipment such
as bicycles. What's under way
now is the environmental review
process.

Farther north along the
shoreline, the park district has
purchased 16 acres just south of
Gilman Avenue in Berkeley. The
property is not within the East-
shore State Park but is adjacent
to it. Its importance lies in its
potential as an alternative site
for sports fields that otherwise
would go on the Albany Plateau,
a site within the Eastshore State
Park that has generated contro-
versy for potential environmen-
tal impacts of playing fields and
potential conflict with state park
policies. The Park District is
working with the cities of
Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville,
Richmond, El Cerrito and vari-
ous sports groups, with the goal
of concluding a joint powers
agreement for development, op-
eration and maintenance of the

16-acre site for sports fields.
Tong said the idea is for the
Park District to own the site, but
lease it for sports purposes, with
Berkeley as the lead lessee. The
district also is seeking \$5.5 mil-
lion in state grants to help de-
sign and construct the facility.

Some parts of the Eastshore
State Park are accessible to the
public now. One is at the end of
Buchanan Street in Albany,
where there's a parking area
(two-hour limit) with access to
Albany Beach, a natural sand
beach on San Francisco Bay. The
parking area was provided
by the city of Albany, working
with Bay Meadows Race Track
(Magna Entertainment Corp.).

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dential area in Richmond south
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Please keep your dogs on-leash
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control.

Ned MacKay, retired public in-
formation supervisor for the
East Bay Regional Park District,
writes a weekly column about
East Bay parks. If you have a
question or comment for Ned, e-
mail him at
nedmackay@attbi.com.

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Village

PAGE A1

Village and replace it with 564 units over the next five years. One part of the plan — which could begin construction this fall — would demolish 1,333 units and build 606 new units for students with families. UC Berkeley senior planner Jeff Bond.

Current rent for the step at the village is between \$720 and \$830 and that's expected to increase to \$1,300. The new units are built — at the cost of building — by Jacobs, the UC Berkeley developer of housing facilities. Students said that would decrease the number of students who could afford the housing and decrease diversity at the

There's been an ongoing debate about whether to rebuild the village, which makes Peter Brownwell, a board member of the Village Residents Association, said after the meeting. He said that would hold off on rebuilding until they have some concrete funding and or a plan that would be affordable for the students currently living there. Students similarly situated in other areas.

Project's effects on traffic and city services also proved to be a concern to Albany city and district officials.

Planners believe the village environmental report has underestimated the amount of development would put the village's firefighters, according to a community development director Ann Chaney planning manager Dave

Environmental report also underestimated the amount of development would put the village's firefighters, according to a community development director Ann Chaney planning manager Dave

Loss of the affordable housing would place state pressure on the city to build more affordable housing. Brownwell said like the university to retain some of them

UC VILLAGE PLAN

In the works since 1998, UC Berkeley is planning to raze 564 units of older housing at University Village and replace them with new 1,333 units in two phases over the next five years. A first phase of redevelopment, known as "step one," has been completed.

In "step two" of the university's plans, 412 units of 1960s housing would be demolished with construction of up to 606 new units for students with families. Step two is located adjacent to the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks on the west side of the development and construction could begin this fall, pending a decision by the UC Regents said UC Berkeley senior planner Jeff Bond.

In "step three," 152 units of 1940s housing would be demolished to make room for up to 727 new units of housing for graduate students without children and faculty. Step three, located between Jackson Street and Marin and San Pablo avenues, would also include construction of a new community center, an infant/child care center and little league fields.

Some 73,000 square feet of retail space would also be built, located mainly in two mixed-use buildings in the step three area. The university could build step three within the next five years, Bond said.

(affordable units)," Dowsnell said. "How many, we couldn't tell you, but as many as financially possible, I guess. There's just a number of ways the two agencies could partner and do that."

Schools concerns

Miriam Walden, vice chairwoman of the Albany School Board, said is concerned that the loss of affordable housing will place a burden on the school district as well. The loss could decrease the number of students enrolled in the district, which could decrease the amount of funding the district receives from the state, she said.

Last year, the Albany school district passed a resolution stating its support for retaining the affordable housing as well as retaining the Gill Tract as a research facility and farmland.

Urban Roots, an organization of UC Berkeley students and Albany and Berkeley residents, has lobbied to save the Gill Tract and has created a proposal for University Village that would preserve the research facility by offering a smaller number of units and less commercial space.

UC Berkeley senior planner Jeff Bond said the university wanted to continue with its plan to replace the Gill Tract because it provides 300 more units and because placing the ball fields in that area would bring it closer to Ocean View Elementary School and Albany City Hall.

"It seems to us, that having the community center and ball fields across the street from Ocean View Elementary and across the street from City Hall — they're things that are complementary to each other," Bond said. "There's joint uses that would be going on all the time, and it becomes a community park — a larger community park in a lot of respects."

As for the affordable housing issue, the university has every intention to increase the number of people who can attend the University and live at the Village, even with the increase in rents, said Jacobs.

"We have to do something," Jacobs said. "That's not an option to let them be, because we have structural issues and issues with mold that need to be addressed."

Reasons disputed

Brownwell disputed the reasons behind the Village plan and wants the university to hold off on building the new units, so that the rents do not have to be increased.

"Basically students are facing monumental fee increase from the university at the same time," he said. "That's hurting the students, and it's also hurting the university's ability to recruit and retain students. That, taken together with the huge loss of affordable units ... it's not the right time to do it all and it makes much more sense to leave the functional units in place until university is in better shape."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

VOLUNTEERS WORKED Feb. 21 on restoring the portion of Cerrito Creek next to El Cerrito Plaza.

Creek

FROM PAGE 1

Canopy trees, such as cottonwood and willows, were missing. Without proper trees to provide shade, the water becomes clogged with algae, which affects wildlife habitat.

The plans showed a more meandering creek than what has been built.

The deficiencies add up to a less stable environment, Bruhns said. Vegetation, for example, holds up creek banks better than rock, which tends to get moved around by the water.

"The more you drift from the natural design there's a potential for nature doing what it wants to do anyway," Bruhns said. "And in the process it tears up what you build and that causes other problems — for the sheer stability of the whole structure."

Water board officials say they were recently notified of deficiencies and viewed the site a few weeks ago, together with city officials, and a few "stakeholder" residents.

The water board has the option of fining the city \$1,000 a day for not complying with the plans the board permitted.

However, the board has chosen to work with the city to make improvements, to prevent discouraging the city from attempting to do other environmental work, and because the board believes the city acted in good faith, Bruhns said.

"We're in a situation now of 'How do we fix it, given that there's something that doesn't match up?' Bruhns said. "Can we fix it to its original design? And the answer is not quite exactly but we can do many things to get it closer to the original design and we're working closer with the city to do that. That means putting in the right kind of plants and irrigation system and things like that."

"The original impetus for the project was the city coming forward and saying we want to do something environmentally good out there," Bruhns said. "So from our point of view, 'That's great, let's work with you on this one.' And we did, and it wasn't quite right, but let's keep working with you."

City planners believe the project was built to the plan specifications and that it's possible the water board did not notice changes to the final plans, because the permit was issued based on preliminary drawings, said Heather Koch, the city's environmental project manager.

environmental project manager.

"To my knowledge they issued our permit based on evaluated drawings and when we gave them updated drawings, there were no concerns," Koch said.

Koch said the city is eagerly working with the water board to improve the project, which will include creating an annual maintenance plan; planting more vegetation and the proper trees and collaborating with the local creek groups and the Urban Creeks Council.

Koch said she believed the creek project was a big improvement considering the limitations of the creek being in an urban environment.

"This project I feel has enhanced the creek. It's definitely stabilized it. It's a big improvement, but it's not a pristine creek in nature," Koch said, adding that creek restoration professionals can disagree on what might constitute an ideal creek restoration.

"El Cerrito is really trying to push the envelope and trying to improve our creeks the best we can, given our resources and constraints of a highly urban area."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

PAGE A1

Parrell. "His knowledge and budgets ... are very helpful, so we're going to miss him."

A 57-year-old engineer at Bay Municipal Utility District, moved to Albany in 1994, when he became involved in civic life in the Albany Little League, ultimately serving as director and head umpire of the organization.

He said he stuck to his job that the school board focus on the children, when it made him unpopular with board member

Marsha Skinner, he was the subject of a recall effort during a contract dispute between the district and the Albany Teachers Union in 2001, although their opponents never submitted the signatures necessary to get a recall on the ballot.

"Anytime you take a stand that a particular group is not happy with, it generates dissatisfaction in that group, and I happened to disagree with several in the leadership of the union of that time," Cain said. "They felt they were the most important element of the school system. I believe they're an important element, but the kids are the most important element. If we have to lay off teachers to pay higher salaries because we don't have the money any other way, that harms the kids, it doesn't help them."

"Really," Cain added, "if not for the kids to educate, we wouldn't have schools, and that's really guided my service on the school board — asking the question, 'What's best for kids?'"

"I have had disagreements with folks on what might be, but we've always operated on the premise that what's best for kids is what we should be doing."

Cain has served on the Albany planning and zoning commission, the park and recreation commission and the library board, served on numerous committees, ran a successful bingo game for the Albany High School

Athletic boosters for several years and was on the City Council from 1990 to 1994. He's also a board member of Rebuilding Together, a home-improvement organization for elderly and disabled people, and he has been involved with the Interdependent Elders Network since 1990.

"You get back far more than you give in terms of satisfaction and seeing the community grow and improve," Cain said. "I have a lot of people say, 'You've done so much.' The community has basically given me so much in giving an opportunity to serve. There's a satisfaction in being involved in making the community a better place that's just indescribable."

Cain said he's moving to Berkeley because he "met a very special woman," and for once is putting his own happiness before his public service.

He has no immediate plans to get involved in Berkeley civic life but hasn't ruled it out.

"I really appreciate the opportunity that the citizens of Albany have given me to participate in all those activities," he said. "It's been a real pleasure, a real special time."

The school district will solicit applicants until March 31 to serve the nine-month remainder of Cain's term.

Residents can pick up applications at the Albany Unified School District office, 904 Talbot Ave., at the Albany Library or online at www.albany.k12.ca.us.

Applicants need to be over 18, an Albany resident and a U.S. citizen. For more information, call 510-558-3766.

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Suspect in rape caught after chase

By Karl Fischer
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Police arrested a rape suspect Tuesday afternoon after the victim spotted him near the El Cerrito del Norte BART station as she drove home from work.

Gary Ralph Sinclair, 44, led officers on a wild chase through three houses before his arrest, El Cerrito detective Sgt. Shawn Maples said.

"The lady was driving on Key Boulevard by the BART station when she saw a white man who was bald, wearing no shirt and had extensive tattoos standing on the sidewalk," Maples said. "She identified him as the man who raped her" Feb. 23 in an unincorporated part of West County.

The woman made a report with the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office after the crime, and authorities issued a \$130,000 arrest warrant for Sinclair on suspicion of rape and assault with a deadly weapon.

Maples said he did not know how well the woman knew Sinclair or the circumstances of the incident. A sheriff's spokesman could not be reached for comment.

Sinclair ran when he saw officers, Maples said, prompting a foot chase. Police saw him run through the front door of a house on the 1900 block of Key, then out the back and over a fence, Maples said.

Police formed a perimeter around the area, but unknown to police at the time, Sinclair escaped by knocking on the door of a stranger's house on Cutting Boulevard. He asked to use the phone, and the resident let him in, Maples said.

Sinclair called a friend for a ride. A short time later, an El Cerrito motorcycle officer saw a Toyota Tercel stop in front of a house on the 5200 block of Macdonald Avenue. Sinclair got out, saw the officer, and ran frantically to the front door of a nearby home.

The resident let him in but would not let police in, Maples said. Sinclair ran out the back door and jumped over the rear fence, but an officer waiting there tackled him on the 2300 block of Humboldt Avenue.

Police booked Sinclair into County Jail in Martinez.

Reach Karl Fischer at 510-262-2728 or kfischer@cctimes.com.



THIS MURAL inside the El Cerrito Community Center is slated to be removed.

Mural

FROM PAGE A1

they endured due to the migration of white people to the area.

"There are elements in it that the community found offensive in the way it was portrayed," said employee services manager Sandi Chapek. "So their point was it's not appropriate for a

building that invites a diverse public."

The issue has since been discussed by the city's arts commission, and human relations commission and the historical society, who have all agreed the mural should be removed, said Chapek said.

"Over last few months we did everything we could to locate the artist," said Chapek, adding that that effort was unsuccessful.

"There's been a concerted effort to locate the artist and to coordinate with community groups who have this as their mission — the arts and cultural commission and human relations commission."

Chapek said the city's maintenance department is scheduled to remove the mural before the El Cerrito Swim Center April 3 grand opening.

"It will be something that will

be done but will be fully and will be around the maintenance department. She added: "We want to preserve it to the historical interest, for its history rather than its cultural interest."

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or alopez@...

Community college offers Cuba tour

SAN PABLO — Contra Costa College is offering a "Cuba Reality Tour" from June 17 to 25. Travelers will visit Havana and Cienfuegos, with day trips to the Vinales region and the UNESCO city of Trinidad.

The trip is fully guided, with tours of Havana and the tobacco region, a visit to a community center and discussions on socialized medicine and educational systems. Participants do not need to speak Spanish, as all tours are conducted in English.

Cost for the trip is \$2,450 per person, and includes airfare from

Oakland, visa for travel to Cuba, hotel accommodations in Cuba, all bus transfers and tours, all breakfasts, and some additional meals. A nonrefundable deposit of \$500 is due by April 1.

An informational meeting for those interested will be held 6 p.m. March 18 in room 8 of the Humanities building at Contra Costa College in San Pablo.

For more information, visit www.contracosta.edu and click on "Upcoming Events," or contact the college district's Study Abroad Office at 925-685-1230, ext. 2563.

Help

FROM PAGE A1

sports, or no one will," Rhea said.

Daniel Kossut, a senior at El Cerrito High School, wondered why all of the focus was on sports.

"It's interesting, when sports is eliminated, everybody freaks out," Kossut said at a student forum Wednesday. "What about the arts? They will be taking another fall, like they always do."

The budget cuts include 201 positions, including psychologists, speech therapists, teachers, principals, counselors and custodians.

While district officials had long warned of dire fiscal straits, the finality of this week's move concerned students, many of whom walked out of class for the second day in a row.

Hundreds of students protested at El Cerrito High, with smaller numbers at Pinole Valley and Hercules high schools and Pinole and DeJean middle schools.

Nobody was injured or arrested at any of the walkouts, according to local police agencies.

However, someone did smash a window of a car parked in Hercules High's teacher lot about 10 a.m. during a walkout there, Hercules Police Chief Fred Deltor-



EL CERRITO High School baseball and football coach James "Pops" Mitchell listens to a radio, Wednesday as he monitors an entryway on campus after a student walkout earlier in protest to the school district program cuts eliminating all sports. Mitchell is an El Cerrito alumnus who went to USC on a full baseball scholarship.

chios said.

Pinole police reported that students, apparently from Hercules

High, mobbed a convenience store on Pinole Valley Road and a few snacks were shoplifted.

Staff writer Karl Fischer contributed to this story. Ana Facio Contreras 510-262-2798

Transportation, Land Use Coalition summit

Sen. Barbara Boxer will be the speaker at "Energizing Communities, Starving Sprawl," the Transportation and Land Use Coalition's seventh annual summit, to be held Saturday, March 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Laney College Forum in Oakland.

The Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TALC, formerly

BATLUC) has been working to define a new course for transportation investment and growth issues in the Bay Area since 1997. The group's major effort for 2004 is regional policy.

For more information about the summit visit: <http://www.transcoalition.org/cal/Summit04summit.html>

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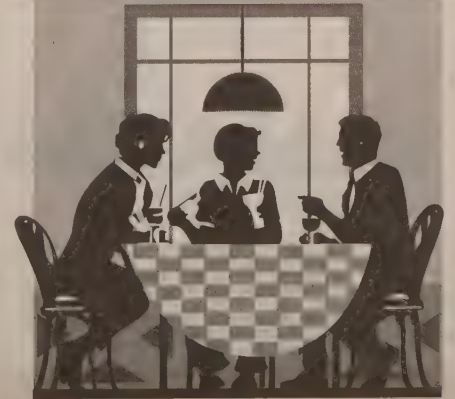
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Real Estate & Home

Friday supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmonter

Friday, March 12, 2004

Section B

defect disclosure really necessary?

Parties win when finances repair costs

20 years ago, home buyers were lucky if the seller told them about the condition of the property they were purchasing.

It's law in most states now. Sellers must disclose material facts about the property that might affect their decision to buy or the price they'd be willing to pay.

National Association of Realtors is in favor of full disclosure. The big question is how to come up with a list of defects to disclose when the seller doesn't know.

Buyers usually have a home inspection done before they finalize a purchase. However, sellers often have painting done to get their home ready for sale. When they do so, such things as stains that indicate a problem exist-disappear. In this case, the buyers would have no way to know they are buying pre-existing problems.

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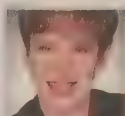
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You make a claim to your insurance company that pays to repair the damage, but not to correct the cause of the problems. You consult with contractors who inform you that you need a new roof and a drainage system at a cost of more than \$30,000. You have no cash reserves to correct the problems.

Also, your insurance company might refuse to renew your policy because you submitted a claim for water damage.



DIAN HYMER
House Hunting

unless the sellers tell them.

HOUSE HUNTING TIP: Sellers can be wary of disclosing defects because they fear their candor will discourage buyers from buying. In fact, full disclosure rarely keeps a home from selling. Buyers who are told about defects before they buy can factor this information into their decision-making, and budget accordingly.

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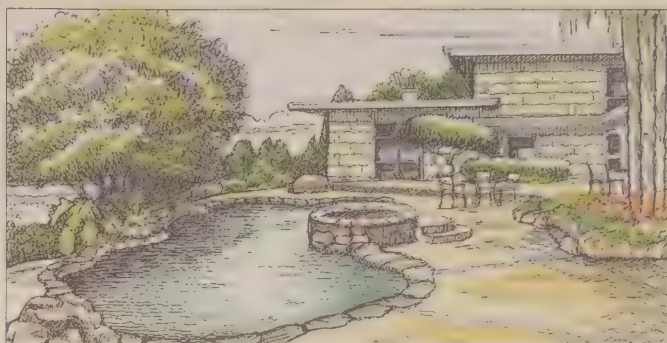
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See HYMER Page B5

Real Estate Spotlight:

Rockridge home has walls of glass



Reminiscent of the Hollywood Hills, the rare and spectacular mid-century level home at 5575 Hilltop Crescent in Oakland sits serenely at the end of a private cul-de-sac in one of Upper Rockridge's most desirable neighborhoods.

One step onto this fabulous property, you are captivated by its beauty. It features elegant formal rooms with terrazzo tile floors. There are four bedrooms, two of which are master suites with large walk-in closets. The huge great room, music room, living and formal dining rooms have soaring ceilings and are all flooded in great light through walls of glass. Most rooms in the home lead out to the glorious pool site with lovely landscaped gardens.

This home is handicapped accessible, including a stair lift to the 900-square-foot loft/office, special shower and bathtub, motorized kitchen cabinets, and a hydraulic lift for the pool. There are 5,700-plus square feet of living space and the home is situated on 1.1 acre. Sweeping views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge help make this a true showcase property.

Price: \$1,550,000. Open Sunday March 14, 2-4:30 p.m.

Listing agent: Dee Knowland, Pacific Union, 510-338-1318 or photo tour at www.deeknowlandrealty.com.

What homeowners should know about tax time

BY SUE MCALLISTER
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

There are times when you're sorry you're a homeowner — like when your roof's leaking. But being a homeowner is usually good news at tax time because of the deductions you get.

So every homeowner should keep the closing statements from your home purchase forever, essentially. The document — often referred to as a HUD-1 statement — can be crucial to calculating your taxes, now and in the future.

It shows how much you paid for the house and for closing costs,

and how much, if any, you paid in points upfront (in most cases points are fully deductible in the year you bought the house).

Also keep the closing statement when you refinance a mortgage. If you pay points when you refinance, you can deduct them, too, spread over the term of the new loan.

As a homeowner, if you itemize you can deduct the amount you paid in property taxes and the interest you paid on your mortgage.

If you sell a home and make a profit, the first \$500,000 of profit is tax-free if you are married. If you're single, \$250,000 worth of gain is ex-

empt from tax. In most cases, you must have lived in the home for two of the past five years to get the exemption. See IRS Publication 523 for all the rules and exceptions.

To calculate your profit, subtract the home's "basis value" from the "adjusted" sales price. The basis value includes what you paid for the house, plus many of the costs of buying it — such as escrow fees — and the costs of any qualifying improvements you made.

The adjusted sales price is the sale price minus some seller-related expenses — like those real estate commissions.

As a homeowner, if you itemize you can deduct the amount you paid in property taxes and the interest you paid on your mortgage.

If you sold a home before 1997 and rolled the profit over into your current home, the amount of profit from that prior sale must be subtracted from your basis value. Again, see IRS Publication 523 for details.

A few other things to know, from tax preparer Larry Pon of Pon & Associates in Redwood City.

If you refinanced and are paying less interest every month, your tax deduction will be smaller than last year, when you had a higher-interest loan. If you are not withholding enough from your paychecks, you may owe tax at the end

See TAX TIME, Page B6

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1430 Leimert Blvd.

Oakland, CA 94602

510.339.4000

www.MontclairBetterHomes.com

Open Sunday

March 14

2:00 to 4:30

UPPER GLENVIEW \$875,000

1026-1030 Hollywood Avenue

Hollywood Showplace wins Oscar...for most dramatic appeal. Triplex perfect for owner occupants with two 2 bedroom luxury flats (single level and 2 story) also a 1 bedroom unit and separate artist studio/office, all with fireplaces, hardwood floors, high ceilings, French doors, crown moulding, window seats and SPECTACULAR Bay views on an oasis of magical gardens and grounds. Sherdella Sims 510-339-4000



MONTCLAIR \$729,000

6216 Ascot Drive

Room with a view! Sophisticated light filled Piedmont Pines custom contemporary with a bay and San Francisco view. Great for entertaining with level-in entry and a spacious living and dining room opening to a deck and landscaped garden. Perfect for those intimate evening parties. Two master suites with a 3rd bedroom loft. Smashing! OPEN 2-5 Bradley Mudd 510-899-6327



PIEDMONT \$699,000

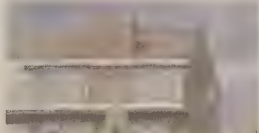
6 Greenbank

Piedmont Opportunity! 1920's vintage home offers 3 BR/2 BA, newly refinished hardwood floors, updated bathrooms, new interior and exterior paint, formal dining room, wide front porch and front and back level lawns. The second floor has a gigantic family room and bedroom with lovely hill view. Two car garage plus off street parking. Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550

MONTCLAIR \$615,000

1650 Gouldin Road

Inviting all level home. This three bedroom 2 updated bathroom home has a great backyard and fresh paint inside and out. 2 car detached garage with extra storage. Walk to Thornhill shops and public transportation. 5 blocks to Montclair Village. Open 2-5 Jack Brenneman 510-339-4557



OAKLAND \$595,000

4491 Montgomery Street

Cape Cod Townhome! Piedmont Avenue area townhome with 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on cul de sac. Updated eat-in kitchen, newly refurbished hardwood floors and new carpeting. Master suite and deck with North Bay view. Open 2-5 Michael Thompson 510-339-5775



OAKLAND \$379,000

7700 Sterling Drive

New Listing! Unique light-filled 2+ bedroom, 1.5 bath house. New roof, new garage, breakfast nook, level lot with fruit trees on a quiet street in great neighborhood. Joe Ashton 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$439,000

6126 Buena Ventura Avenue

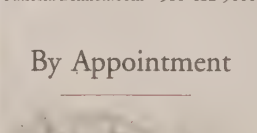
Beautiful split-level starterhome with hardwood floors, fireplace, spacious deck overlooking a tree filled yard. Located on excellent street of well-maintained homes. Maria Sinclair 510-339-4566



OAKLAND \$299,000

3531 Davis Street

JUST LISTED- Spacious home with 2 car garage and large backyard. Updated kitchen, new heater, formal dining. See photos at PatriciaBennett.com "Featured Listings." Patricia Bennett.com 510-482-9000



By Appointment



PIEDMONT \$749,000

2 bedroom, 1.5 bath traditional

home in Piedmont includes 2nd parcel and is freshly painted, with hardwood floors. Spacious living room plus wood burning fireplace and oversized windows. Kitchen offers side patio access and breakfast bar adjacent to dining area. Inviting front and back patios. 2 car detached garage with plus room. Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550

OAKLAND \$650,000

Large level commercial lot at high traffic

intersection. Over 13K square feet. Zoned C-10. High visibility and huge potential. Many uses. Across from Bishop O'Dowd High School. Near all major bus lines. Next to 580 freeway entrance. 2708 98th Avenue. Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$450,000

Nice 4-plex with excellent income.

Aggressive pricing. All 2/1 units are rented and separately metered. Steady OHA market rents. Cash is king, where is yours coming from? 685 37th Street Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

EMERYVILLE \$439,000

Pride of Ownership! Very nice 3 bedroom

2 bath home, brick fireplace, dining area, hardwood floors, front and rear yard, detached garage! Convenient location. A must see! Lila Owens 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$375,000

Clean duplex on huge lot. Much room for

expansion. Lower unit remodeled and vacant. Upstairs unit occupied at market rent through OHA. Both units are large 3 bedroom 1 bath units. 2925 Martin Luther King Way. Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$270,000

Cute and clean condo overlooking lush

courtyard. Must see this 2 bedroom, 1 bath gem with remodeled kitchen and bath, tiled entry and recessed lights. Security building. Parking and laundry on site. 360 Vernon Street #111. Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

Commercial



OAKLAND \$1,350,000

Gorgeous and classic Victorian

building. 8200 +/- square feet. 4100 sq. ft. of bar/restaurant and leased retail space downstairs, 4100 sq. ft. of framed office or residential space upstairs. In the heart of Oakland's Auto Row. Motivated seller. Seller financing available. Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MOVE, PLEASE CALL US!

Real Estate Focus:

Hillside home has peaceful setting



SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD; forget the city: you are in the country. Enjoy spectacular canyon views from each level of the home at 910 Leneve Place, El Cerrito. It has a beautiful front garden and a serene rear yard where peace is easily obtained. Three bedrooms, three and a half baths, plus a fireplace, hardwood floors, large dining room, and an area that could be used as an office or even a dance studio. The second level could be used as an in-law unit with a private entrance.

Price: \$849,900.

Agents: Merrilyn Rhodes and Crystal Elliott, Marvin Gardens Realty, 510-292-3048 and 510-292-3041.

Saving energy at Millstein and Associates

MILLSTEIN AND ASSOCIATES

Most days the sun shines on the roofs of all the buildings in the East Bay, but at the real estate office of Millstein and Associates, that sunlight is converted into power by a bank of solar panels. The solar panels provide clean energy while saving money on utility bills.

The real estate agency recently had the photovoltaic panels installed onto their office roof. These panels convert the energy of sunlight directly into electric power, mimicking photosynthesis,

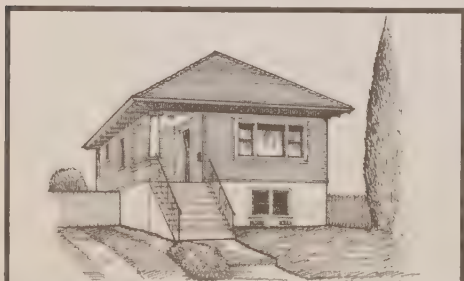
the process by which a plant makes energy.

Millstein and Associate's Gene Millstein says that the solar panels will produce enough electricity to run the lights and computers in the offices. At peak sunlight hours the panels will produce 3,500 watts of electricity. Any power that their office does not use is sold back to the general power grid and the office's meter runs backwards. PG&E can sell this power to other customers.

It is advantageous that this excess power will be available when

demand for power is greatest, in the middle of the afternoon. Another advantage is that solar power is clean power. It comes from the sun, rather than a coal burning or nuclear power plant. After the California State subsidy and the federal and state tax

See MILLSTEIN: Page B3



Emeryville/Oakland Border - \$365,000

6127 Baker Street, Oakland Open Sunday, March 7 & 14 2-4:30



Michelle Syracuse
510-273-9263
510-845-0211
michelle.syracuse@prudential.com



This delightful 2 bedroom bungalow exudes charm - formal dining room with fireplace, wainscoting and built-ins, huge sunny garden, refinished fir floors - minutes from Emeryville amenities.



1253 Hawthorne
Heart of Alameda's
Gold Coast
4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath
Huge Price Reduction

Light, Bright & Airy. Located on 1 block Cul-de-sac. Ceramic tile floors in Entry Hall, Kitchen & Family Room / Office. Large Formal Living Room with Italian Marble Fireplace. Large Formal Dining Room. Hardwood Floors newly refinished, new paint. Large Master Bedroom Suite. Gourmet Kitchen. Solid Oak Cabinets. Family Room. Could Be used for Au Pair. 2 Car detached Garage with Workshop

Bev & George Williams, Agts.
(510) 522-7173

The GRUBB Co.

NEW LISTING



4807 Calderwood Court, Oakland

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This beautiful home offers gorgeous grounds designed by Gene Kunit, featuring and elegant front arbor and courtyard, mature trees & landscaping, expansive lawns & a relaxing hot tub spa overlooking canyon views. Located on a desirable cul-de-sac, highlights include a spacious master suite, large family room with fireplace, grand media room and exquisite glass-walled solarium! Four+ bedrooms, three baths, three-car garage.

Offered at \$945,000



SHERRY BENNINGER
OFFICE: 339.0400/240
sherry@sherrybenninger.com
GRUBBCO.COM

New Listing

OPEN
SUNDAY
2-4



845-47 Pomona Ave., Albany

Two wonderful homes on one lot half a block from Solano Ave. Front house is a 1921 two bedroom/one bath craftsman bungalow with hardwood floors, built-ins, firpl & formal dining rm. Back house is a 1948 charming 2BR/1Bath split level cottage. Property has 2-car garage & 1920 sq. ft. of living space on 5000 sq. ft. lot.

Offered at \$649,000



Ury Beary
(510) 527-8545

RE/MAX
EXECUTIVE

In the garden — away from it all
away from the kids (sort of)

Number 456 in a series of true experiences in real estate

From glorious day one I've found parenting to be absorbing and demanding, no less so now that my children are ages 18 and 20. They're big people now taking up adult space and requiring razors and eye liner and numerous clean bath towels.

They drink tea with honey in the morning, carry packets of CDs with them always, make calls on cell phones all the day long and into the night.

They have cars and insurance, need gasoline and tires, and they get parking tickets. They insist that they are old enough for anything they want to do but they look to me for assistance, my opinion sometimes, but especially for money.

I often want to get away from them, their wants and desires, from my reminders to them to wash the pan and knife they've used, to honor their commitments. Sometimes, in the short run, I retreat to the shower where it is quiet and warm and solitary. Other times, I go into my garden and stay, sometimes all day.

My mother also went to the garden. I think it was when I entered junior high school that she began retreating to the uppermost level of her garden. We'd quarrel about something in the morning — it was almost always in the morning — and my mom would walk out the back door, coffee cup in hand, and she'd walk up the wooden stairs to the top terrace, and sit.

I'd peer out the screen door and see her there looking thoughtful, maybe miffed or exasperated. Certainly she seemed calmer now that

she was away and alone. I didn't go to talk to her. I knew that she didn't want to talk.

I don't sit in my garden. I can't just sit. I pull weeds, I pick up fallen leaves and cones and needles that have rained torrentially down. I tidy up, coax the garden clean, and it's quite satisfying, even healing.

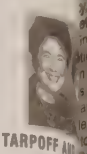
For moments at a stretch, instead of thinking of my children, I think about little tiny things. For example, I experiment with the most satisfactory method for pulling gangs of pinhead size seedlings from between the pea gravel on the garden pathways.

Pluck with fingers? Maybe tweezers? Rake vigorously? No, experience shows that rubbing the gravel back and forth exposes the shafts of the seedlings, and hard rubbing dislodges most.

The stem silvers lie on their sides, dozens, thousands of them. Tiny germinated seeds scatter among the pebbles, barely born babies uprooted.

While so engaged, I am able to let my mind float into nothingness. With a start I come to and find that I am picking up oak leaves, one by one. As it would take longer than a lifetime to collect single oak leaves, I switch to sweeping small leafy piles together, crackly, prickly to my bare fingers, and I start to think again.

Did Annie talk to the other group members, know what her part of the assignment is? Maybe I should make cheese rice tonight. Everyone likes it, I'll need mushrooms. I'll bet Nick left his wet towel on the floor again. Oh, those red Bouncing Bet roots, here they are again, everywhere. Little advantage to dig-



TARPOFF AND

ging them out back in force.

Annie approximates distance between that her purpose. She's going to she typing her

"Mom, see, I'm a and I ate and have my phone bye

She doesn't beyond my nod that I won't yell from garden. I'm in. We'll discuss now. Good bye

I do wish would bloom crowded? Or enough here for green triangle type appeared. I tug leftovers. But I've in huge clumps Berkeley. I t Deep rich blue

See TARPOFF



"TRUST PROFESSOR WHO CARES

SAN LEAN

13733 Seagate 2BD/1BA Condo Seagate, One Carport One Carport Cell phone, Free PENDING

14560 Outrigger 2BD/2BA Condo Seagate, Downs No Stairs, Two Car SOLD

14177 Seagate 3BD 2.5BA Marina Seagate One Carport SOLD

14638 Outrigger 3BD/2.5BA Town Attached Two Car SOLD

Oh so neat-o in El Cerrito!



5709 Jordan Ave., El Cerrito

I once had some buyers so sweet-ol Bought their first home in El Cerrito

With a fabulous view And a huge garden too

So now their dream is quite complete-ol

(represented the buyer)



Jackie Care
510-834-2010

www.prurealty.com/jackiecare

Prudential
California Realty

1028 Keeler Ave., Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-5



Mid-century modern by noted designer, Louise Riggs. Redwood walls, a fabulous open floor plan, copper finishes, soaring ceilings and stunning GG Bridge and SF Bay views from 3 decks make this a peaceful and inspirational retreat. 2800 sq. ft., 4bd/3ba including great in-law space and flexible floor plan.

Offered at \$999,000

2 THEATRE SQUARE, ORINDA, CA 94563

Now Search MLS Listings at www.apr.com

637 & 639 Aileen Street Open Sunday, March 14

\$525,000

Vintage Duplex
North Oakland
Pride of Ownership



Just Listed!!!



Adrienne Nash, CRS
Top 4% Prudential Realtors Nationwide
510-763-4060

- Spacious 4 bd home plus 2 bedroom legal apartment
- Lovely vintage architectural details.
- Numerous upgrades. Delivered Vacant!
- Large fenced rear garden.
- Garage plus workshop or storage room.
- Convenient to transportation, shopping, UC and

Visual Tour

www.homes.com

Prudential
California Realty

off
B2
to dig, I should add
to it
time goes by I've
my bucket climbing
the patio half a dozen
returning to the up-
New rounds up the
steps about half
the
have the gas card?" he
know. Oh sure, why not.
his payday isn't for.
Another six days
some work for you, to-
he says as he goes
Thanks
a chance that my chil-

dren will grow up, find indepen-
dence, live on their own, make
their own dentist appointments,
remember to vote? What about
balancing a checkbook? Rotating
tires? Will they invent, sing, con-
tribute and produce?
Some daffodils are blooming,
the whitish ones, pretty and crisp.
And the miniatures, I see, are just
breaking ground; always they're
later. I scoop oak leaves into my
hand, drop them in a bucket,
scoop again.
I like the bare ground, nothing
on it, not yet anyway. But spring
is coming.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoff are
residential real estate agents who
can be reached at 653-2050 and
at www.tarpoffandtalbert.com.

Millstein

FROM PAGE B2

credits, Millstein paid \$13,000 for
the system. The system will pay
for itself in seven to nine years in
saved electricity bills.

The state had been paying for
50 percent of the installation or
\$3.80 per watt that the system
would produce, but as of 2004
that rebate will drop to about 35
percent of the installation or \$3.20
per rated watt.

For 2003 there was a 10 percent
credit on Federal Taxes and a 15-
percent credit on state taxes. These
credits may go down a bit in 2004.

Over the next 30 years the solar
panels at Millstein will likely
produce 162,881 kilowatt hours of
power, enough to drive around
the equator 11.5 times.

The GRUBB Co.

22 Craig Avenue,
Piedmont

COMING SOON. This stately 1914
traditional in Central Piedmont has been
beautifully restored for comfortable living
and large-scale entertaining. The property
offers five bedrooms, four and one half
baths including a detached guest suite.
Chef's kitchen with exquisite granite
counters, warm cabinetry and breakfast
room opens to expansive deck of mangaric and mahogany; wonderful rumpus and yard. Many
upgrades; two-car garage; security gate.

Offered at \$2,195,000



NANCY LEHRKIND
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1 Month MTA Option Arm & Interest Only Payments

→ 1.25% START RATE 3.563% APR

→ 100% financing options

→ CALPERS APPROVED

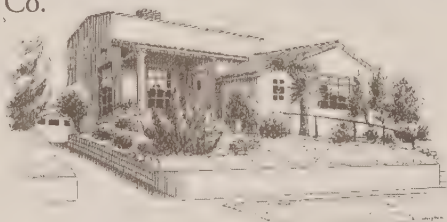
"Top competitive fixed rates!!!"

AL LEE - Loan Consultant

415.420-2371 office 510-206-7865 cellular; 5050 Broadway 3rd fl Oakland CA 94611



GRUBB Co.



55 Fairview Avenue, Piedmont

Offered at \$929,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30



ANIAN PETTIT TUNNEY, CRS
BROKER ASSOCIATE
OFFICE: 339.0400/217
tunney@grubbco.com

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of this and other current listings.

MAISON NOUVEAU Real Estate Services

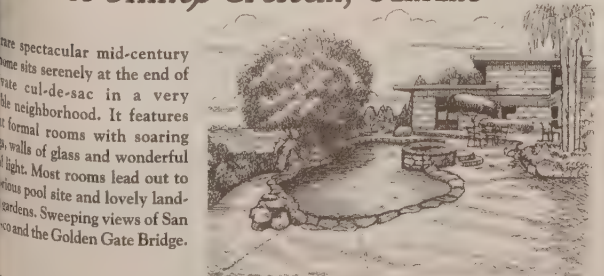
It's not luck.



Our clients receive world-class service at a lower price.

www.MaisonNouveauRealty.com 2% Commission 1111 College Ave. 94608-2200

New Listing ~ Upper Rockridge
OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2-4:30 PM
5575 Hilltop Crescent, Oakland



4 bedrooms, 3+ baths • Huge "great room" • Formal dining room • 5,700 sq. ft. per
year • 3-car garage • Pool and cabana • Handicap equipped including: stair lift,
shower/bath, motorized kitchen cabinets, hydraulic lift for pool

Offered at \$1,550,000

Dee Knowland

Senior Sales Associate 510.338.1318

Photo tour @ www.deeknowlandrealty.com



Open House
Sunday 3-7 & 3-4
2:00-4:30

1470 Fernwood Drive-Montclair



Incredible designer's storybook tudor located in the popular
Montclair Village neighborhood. Tastefully remodeled, this
pristine home still retains its old world charm and character
Offered at: \$895,000



Presented by
Millie Lombardi
510.869.4210 vm
510.290.6408 cell



Prudential
Fine Homes International

photo tour at: www.PruRealty.com/MillieLombardi

NEW LISTING



OPEN
SUNDAY 2-5

Montclair District

5829 McANDREWS DR.

Spacious! Piedmont side of Montclair. 2 BD,
2 BA upstairs with much added space downstairs.
Underground utilities, inside access from 2-car garage.
\$799,000



TERRY ANTHONY
(510) 339-4758

COLDWELL
BANKER

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Montclair Better Homes Realty



1920's vintage home in Piedmont on gorgeous tree-lined street. Freshly painted inside and out,
refinished hardwood floors and lovely details. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, spacious living room and attrac-
tive fireplace, formal dining room, and delightful front porch. Gigantic converted attic with lots of
light, vaulted ceilings, and plus bedroom; perfect for family or multipurpose room.



NAHID NASSIRI
"Your Best Move"
(510) 339-4550 Direct
(510) 339-8400 Office

COMING SOON!
6 Greenbank, Piedmont
Asking Price \$699,000

Visit me on the Web at www.NahidNassiri.com

646 Caldwell

Open Sunday
2-4:30

Montclair
Jewel



646 Caldwell Road, Oakland

■ RARE! Level backyard space

■ 3+ bedrooms, 3 baths, Great Room

■ Easy access to village, Lake Temescal, freeway

\$799,000



Julie Nachtwey

www.julienachtwey.com

(510) 540-8743



OMAC Real Estate

The GRUBB Co.

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

1960 MOUNTAIN BLVD.

OAKLAND, 94611

339.0400

3070 CLAREMONT AVENUE

BERKELEY, 94705

652.2133

Exclusive Affiliate of
CHRISTIE'S
GREAT ESTATES



71 DUDLEY AVENUE

\$1,995,000

A wonderful and enchanting oasis, located on approximately 2/3 of an acre with beautiful landscaping, arbor & pool. This very unique 4BR/4BA home & separate guest cottage captures the imagination! Angela Wei Grubb

PIEDMONT OPEN SUNDAY

2 - 4:30



55 FAIRVIEW AVENUE

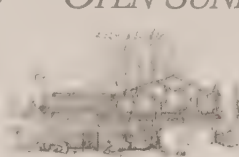
Sited on approx. one quarter of an acre, this stunning Mediterranean (circa 1931) features stunning architectural details, hardwood floors, kitchen and a sauna.

OAKLAND - OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



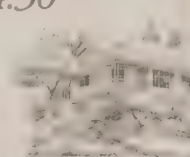
1015 GRAND VIEW DRIVE \$2,395,000

A large, stunning, architect designed contemporary w/ beautiful views on large lot! 5BR/4.5BA, fabulous kitchen/family room, private au pair, master retreat with views! Spectacular new construction! Helene Barkin



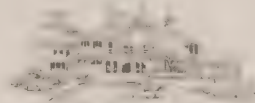
4807 CALDERWOOD CT. \$945,000

Gorgeous grounds w/ an elegant arbor, courtyard, mature trees, hot tub & expansive lawns perfect for croquet. 4+BR/3BA plus media/recreation room, family room & fabulous solarium. Sherry Benninger



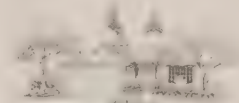
6608 PINEHAVEN ROAD

Adorable country cottage in the Montclair Hills from the Village shops and transportation. Large and private lot. Two bedrooms, one bath, hardwood floors & wood-burning stove. Diba



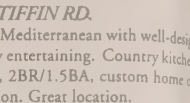
30 SKYWAY LANE \$2,495,000

Gated estate on 1.48 useable acres that back up to parkland. This spacious 5+BR/5BA view home offers the ultimate in privacy & equestrian facilities. Family room level to pool & garden. Additional 1BR apartment. Kurt Buchholz



6659 GIRVIN DRIVE \$749,000

A great contemporary with high ceilings. Designed and built by Tom Lowe in 1977. 4BR/2.5BA, family room and lots of glass. Serene creekside setting. New appliances and granite counters in the kitchen. Sheila Gallagher



2312 TIFFIN RD.

Sunny Mediterranean with well-designed for easy entertaining. Country kitchen, garden, 2BR/1.5BA, custom home office condition. Great location.



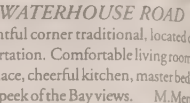
16032 BROADWAY TERR. \$1,450,000

This distinguished six-year-old Montclair home, features magnificent San Francisco and bridge views, a central courtyard, back garden and exquisite quality detail. 4BR + library, 4 full baths. Sherry Benninger



6632 ASCOT DRIVE \$739,000

Piedmont Pines gem. Charming and sunny retreat near parks and hiking trails. 3BR/3BA. Gracious living room & dining area open to large deck with wooded views. Rumpus room w/ fireplace. Donna DeBardi



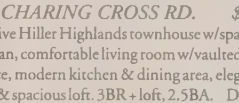
4031 WATERHOUSE ROAD

A delightful corner traditional, located close to transportation. Comfortable living room & kitchen w/ fireplace, cheerful kitchen, master bedroom deck & peek of the Bay views. M. Merrick



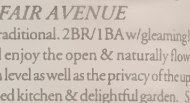
1129 CLARENDON CRES. \$1,195,000

A gorgeous traditional in Crocker Highlands. Sun room & cheery kitchen opening to a great deck. Large, professionally landscaped gardens. Spacious formal room. 4BR up, family room down. Judith Cain



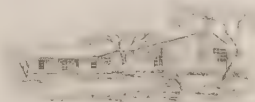
6658 CHARING CROSS RD. \$629,000

Attractive Hiller Highlands townhouse w/ spacious open floor plan, comfortable living room w/ vaulted ceilings & fireplace, modern kitchen & dining area, elegant master retreat & spacious loft. 3BR + loft, 2.5BA. Dana Cohen



4740 FAIR AVENUE

Sunny traditional. 2BR/1BA w/ gleaming hardwood floors. You will enjoy the open & naturally flowing layout of the main level as well as the privacy of the upper level remodeled kitchen & delightful garden. Sherry Benninger



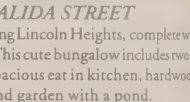
16 HUMPHREY PLACE \$995,000

Fabulous, sophisticated & totally remodeled 3+BR/2.5BA. Master suite w/ fireplace. Chef's kitchen. Private 20,000+ sq. ft. lot. Great for entertaining. Two separate detached garages. Karen Starr



1056 NORWOOD AVENUE \$569,000

Completely charming Crocker Highlands 2BR/1BA home. Set amidst a large and beautiful landscaped garden. Random plank floors, updated kitchen. Near public transportation. Judith Cain



2465 ALIDA STREET

Charming Lincoln Heights, complete with white picket fence. This cute bungalow includes two bedrooms, bath, spacious eat in kitchen, hardwood floors, stove and garden with a pond.



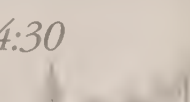
166 TUNNEL ROAD \$3,150,000

Open 4:30-6:30. Must pre-register to attend Open House. Gated & private, exclusive area near the Claremont Hotel. 1.25 acres, tennis court, swimming pool, lawns & gardens. Views of SF, Bay & bridges. Debra J. Dryden



6807 BUCKINGHAM BLVD. \$2,200,000

Built by Patrick Kwok, designed by Phillip Perkins in 2000. Incredible details & elegance. 5BR/4+BA. Private cul-de-sac. Breathtaking unobstructed Bay & city views. Mavis Delacroix



386 VERMONT AVENUE

Cape Cod cottage embraced by a white picket fence. 2+BR/1BA. In need of substantial restoration. Large lot with a seasonal creek. Excellent location in Kensington Village.

PIEDMONT, OAKLAND, BERKELEY & ALAMEDA - BY APPOINTMENT



SEA VIEW ESTATE CALL FOR PRICE

PIEDMONT. San Francisco style & splendor in Piedmont! Enjoy the elegance of another era. Fabulous gourmet kitchen, remodeled master bedroom suite & stunning formal dining room. Anian Pettit Tunney



SPECTACULAR! \$1,695,000

OAKLAND. High-quality finishes throughout, 4+BR/3.5BA, pecan floors, grand living room, open kitchen/family room. Beautiful stone & ironwork. Master retreat with stunning views. Kurt Buchholz



LOVELY VICTORIAN

ALAMEDA. Beautifully restored Victorian. Hardwood molding and French doors in grand entry coupled with modern systems.



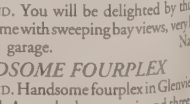
ELEGANT MEDITERRANEAN \$2,300,000

OAKLAND. An elegant & stylish newer Mediterranean home w/ 5+BR/4.5BA. Chef's kitchen/family room w/ Bay views. Media/exercise room. Master retreat. Large level garden. Carolyn Jones



FABULOUS VIEWS \$1,350,000

OAKLAND. Fabulous newer construction with sweeping views of the Bay. Four plus bedrooms, three baths, spacious kitchen, family room w/ fireplace, gleaming hardwood floors, formal living room and dining room. Nancy Lehrkind



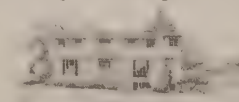
HILLER HIGHLANDS

OAKLAND. You will be delighted by this 3BR townhome with sweeping bay views, very large two car garage.



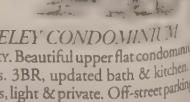
ONE-OF-A-KIND HOME \$2,250,000

OAKLAND. Sensational one-of-a-kind home in popular Piedmont side of Montclair. Walls of glass, high ceilings & stunning living room. Sweeping SF views await you! Great attached 2nd unit apartment. Anian Pettit Tunney



BAY VIEW COLONIAL \$1,190,000

OAKLAND. Exquisite colonial on a beautiful lot. Sweeping Bay view can be enjoyed from most rooms. Excellent kitchen with state of the art appliances & hardwood floors, fabulous master suite. 4BR/2.5BA. Susanne Paul



BERKELEY CONDOMINIUM

BERKELEY. Beautiful upper flat condominium. Hardwood floors, 3BR, updated bath & kitchen. Close to shops, light & private. Off-street parking. Berkeley Lot

BERKELEY. Build your new home in Park Hills canyon & Tilden Park views.

BUILDABLE LOT BERKELEY. Upslope Claremont Hills location. Views. Surrounded by high-end properties.

mer
PAGE B1
buyers had no extra cash
for the new roof, but they
had other options. They could
ask the seller to replace the roof.
If the seller said no, they could
ask the seller to pay a portion.
They could make an offer at
the cost of the roof, instead of
the cost of a new roof.
The buyer finances the

roof replacement and pays it off
over time.

The options aren't so great for
buyers who don't know about de-
fects before they close on their
new home. They can ask the sell-
ers to pay to fix the defects. But, if
the sellers refuse, their only re-
course may be to sue the sellers.
This could end up being a far
more costly proposition than it
would have been if the sellers had
come clean to begin with. Full dis-
closure is usually in the best inter-
est of both buyers and sellers.

Sellers who don't realize the
protection full disclosure provides
may skip on their disclosures,
which can also lead to problems.

In addition to disclosing defects,
it's prudent to inform the buyers
about routine maintenance that
will need attending to in order to
avoid future problems.

For example, you may have a
sewer line that needs to have
roots cleared periodically to avoid
backups or a skylight that needs
routine caulking to avoid leaks.

THE CLOSING: When you
pass this information along to the
buyers, you also transfer respon-
sibility for avoiding future prob-
lems to them.

Dian Hymer can be reached at
510-339-4777 or by e-mail at
Dian@Dianhymer.com.

Carol A. Warren Company
REAL ESTATE BROKERS

Open House - 174 Santa Clara Avenue, Oakland
Sunday, March 14th, 2 pm - 4:30 pm
\$699,000

Approx. 3,000 sq. ft. Traditional with Roman Temple
behind a lush foliage screen in Grand/Lake/Rose
area. The property is a 5 bedroom home, including a master
bedroom with formal dining & living room
& fireplace. There is an enclosed
back porch & architectural features throughout. Completely
renovated it has shiny hardwood floors, new carpeting in some
nightlight throughout. The kitchen features a butler's
alcove. Breakfast in your sunny breakfast room
overlooking landscaped garden. This home is
a must see!

Carol Warren, Broker
Phone: (510) 652-4800
Fax: (510) 652-1313
E-Mail: cawcompany@earthlink.net

The GRUBB Co.

30 Skyway Lane, Oakland Hills
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Spectacular 1.48 acre property that backs up to Chabot
Regional Park with equestrian facilities and amazing gardens and water elements.
The main house is over 5800 square feet and features five bedrooms, four and one
half baths. The living room with its nineteen foot ceilings is surrounded by French
doors and wooden windows. The large formal dining room has it's own fireplace.
The chef's kitchen with adjacent family room is level out to the pool and gardens.
A hand-crafted den/library with fireplace also opens level to the gardens. There
is a separate one-bedroom apartment on the property as well as a barn, corral
chicken coop and raised bed vegetable garden. Great off street parking.
Offered at \$2,495,000

KURT BUCHHOLZ
OFFICE: 339.0400/221
buchholz@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for
Photo Tours
of this and other current listings.

6343 Skyline Blvd.
Open Sunday 2-4:30

CAMBIO
A Modern Architectural Masterpiece
by Lyric Design
4,500 sf on three levels with Bay views
and natural setting
4 Bedrooms, 3-plus Baths
\$2,150,000

Julie Lehman 986-9556
Nancy Plattford 869-5376

Prudential
California Realty
2 Tunnel Road, Berkeley, CA

The GRUBB Co.

550. Mountain Boulevard, Montclair
RECENTLY SOLD. Stunning four bedroom, four bath designer showcase
with chef's kitchen, Bay views and level patio and gardens.
Sold with 9 offers!
Originally offered at \$965,000
Represented the Sellers

DANA COHEN
OFFICE: 339.0400/348
dcohen@grubbco.com

The GRUBB Co.

16032 Broadway Terrace, Montclair
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Magnificent home with San Francisco and bridge views. This
distinguished six-year-old Montclair home, features a central courtyard, level backyard,
fabulous gourmet kitchen, hand-sculpted iron work, luxury finishes and breathtaking views.
Four bedrooms including two master suites, library and four full baths.
Offered at \$1,450,000

SHERRY BENNINGER
OFFICE: 339.0400/240
sherry@sherrybenninger.com
SherryBenninger.com
GRUBBCO.COM

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Photo Tours
of this and other current listings.

The GRUBB Co.

6608 Pinehaven Road
Montclair
Offered at \$549,000

2465 Alida Street
Lincoln Heights
Offered at \$439,000

Debbi DiMaggio
Making Transitions Easier
OFFICE: 339.0400/227
dimaggio@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

A sampling of our current listings:

	Oakland Large 4-bedroom, 2-bath home Perfect for extended family. Off-street parking for six cars. \$345,000
	Noe Valley Wonderful, secluded home yet just steps away from 24th St. shopping & restaurants. 3-bedrooms, 2-baths on 2 levels. Huge family room with separate entrance on first floor. 1 car parking. \$729,000
	Marina Rarely available 1-bedroom in a beautifully maintained and recently painted building in the heart of the Marina close to Moscone Park, Marina Green, shopping & transportation. This bright & cheery 2nd floor unit has ample closet space & a remodeled bath. \$475,000

Prudential
California Realty
Jim Hedges
manager
415-762-8393

2241 Market St. San Francisco
2200 Union St. San Francisco

and our newest location!
221 Caledonia St. Sausalito

BAY AREA PROPERTIES
3088 Claremont Ave.
Berkeley
Diana Yonkouski
510-597-0292
Photos at:
baproperties.com

Coming Soon!

6860 Cutting Boulevard, El Cerrito
Spacious 2 Bedroom with Views Throughout!
Offered at \$419,000.
Also...Lots of Lots Available!
See our website for further details!
www.baproperties.com

BAY AREA PROPERTIES Diana Yonkouski, Broker

OPEN SUN 2-5

6151 Swainland Road
Superior architectural design and quality details define this
1997 Montclair home with spectacular panoramic SF and
bay views from most every room. Featuring 3000 sq. ft., 3+
bedrooms and 2.5 baths.
Offered at \$1,299,000

KELLY DEAL
Direct 510.649.1111 Ext. 245

LORI LEGLER
510.649.1111 Ext. 216

ALAIN PINEL
REALTOR

A look around the real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Realtor.com

Reflecting strong home sales activity throughout the year, prospective homebuyers logged more than 2.5 billion minutes during 2003 on Realtor.com, the website of the National Association of Realtors. An independent Internet consumer researcher reported the figures. The

site provides the largest online directory of homes for sale and connects them with Realtors qualified to help them. Check it out at www.realtor.com.

Secrets

What does San Ramon have to offer? Find out more at "Home Buying Secrets" presented by Dennis Viers of the Viers Team at Diablo Funding Group. Buying a home is a complex process and attending a seminar can be beneficial. A Home Buyers Manual is included.



BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthy

This free class is Wednesday, March 17. Call 800-830-1281 ext. 703.

See REID, Page B8

OPEN SUNDAY



ROCKRIDGE
5407 BRYANT AVENUE

This adorable 2 bedroom home features hardwood floors, fireplace in the living room, a "plus" room, fenced yard and is located close to BART, College Avenue shops and restaurants.

Offered at \$510,000

Open To The Public
Sunday, March 14 • 2:00-5:00

Terry Kulka,
510-339-4789
terrykulka@att.net



2800 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda
Open Sunday 2-5



Spacious rooms and fine architecture grace this lovingly maintained vintage 1948 home on a flat lot with yard. It boasts wood windows and



Kelly Deal
Office 510.649.1111 Ext. 245
Cell 510.484.4300
kdeal@apr.com



Tax Time

FROM PAGE B1

of the year. You need to recalculate your withholding.

■ If you get a home-equity loan for more than \$100,000, the inter-

est you pay on it is only deductible if you use it for a home purchase construction or substantial improvement to your home. See IRS Publication 936 for details.

■ If you paid a prepayment penalty when you refinanced, you can deduct that amount, which

should show up on your lender's 1098.

■ If you have a mortgage interest on \$1 million or more, you may want to consult a professional tax

NEW LISTING



Piedmont Traditional with Bay Views

52 Sharon Avenue

4 Bedrooms, 3 full Baths. Lovely family home is centrally located in a quiet Piedmont neighborhood and offers charm and style.

\$1,295,000



Haideh Chew
(510) 339-4718



The GRUBB COMPANY



1015 Grand View Drive, Claremont Hills

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Large and dramatic, sophisticated contemporary sizeable lot, with lovely bay views! Five bedrooms, four and one half including two master suites and an in-law apartment/guest suite. Access between beautiful interior spaces and the outdoors. Wonderful master bedroom with dressing room, sitting room, stunning view. Impressive master bath provides a true retreat. Amenities include convenient elevator and quality finishes throughout. This architecture is spectacular in its integration of simplicity and beauty.

Offered at \$2,195,000



HELENE BARKIN
OFFICE: 652.2133/424
hbarkin@grubbco.com
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HERITAGE REAL ESTATE FINE HOMES & ESTATES

heritagerealestate.com

Your community has been our world since 1969

BERKELEY

Open Sun 2-4:30pm



Berkeley
Lovely 3 BR home in Berkeley with formal dining room, fireplace, hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen and bath. Separate artist studio with two skylights, lovely front and rear gardens.

Victor Fierro

(510)339-8900

BERKELEY

Open Sun 2-4:30pm



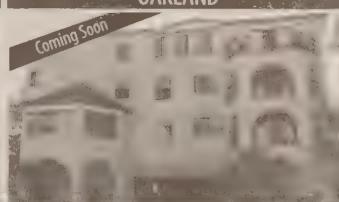
Berkeley
New listing! Wonderful all-level home in prestigious Claremont neighborhood. Pretty private front courtyard and back garden. Steps away from shops, Peet's coffee, & the Claremont Hotel. Move-in condition. 2 BR / 2 Full BA.

Gayle Tantau

(510)339-8900

OAKLAND

Coming Soon



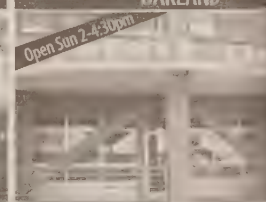
Grand Lake
Quality finishes throughout in this 2 BR / 2 BA condo penthouse. Granite, marble and a Jacuzzi master bath! Located in a small building convenient to Lake Merritt, shopping and easy freeway access, this property has a solarium, a private deck and two secure parking spaces. This is a "Must See!"

Tom Erwin

(510)339-8900

OAKLAND

Open Sun 2-4:30pm



Jack London Square
Hi-tech chic live/work loft. Approx 1,475 sq. ft. of floor with state-of-the-art kitchen, hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, ULTRA convenient to shops, restaurants and ferry!

Jody Dworzak

OAKLAND



Lake / Chinatown
A FRESH CANVAS FOR YOUR DECOR! Ready for an offer. New neutral paint & carpet. Huge free-form plan. Bright, elegant, prestigious 2 BR / 2 BA high-rise urban home. Full security, 24 hr. doorman, roof garden with panoramic view. 5 min. to BART at 40% of SF price!

D.C. Hodges

(510)339-8900

OAKLAND

Open Sun 2-4:30pm



Mills College
Take a look at me now! 4BR, 2 updated BA, updated kitchen, new carpet and fresh paint inside and out. Nice home!

Sheila Brox Crawford

(510)339-8900

OAKLAND

Open Sun 2-4:30pm



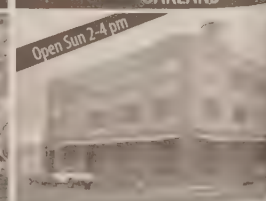
Montclair Hills
New Listing! Tucked above a redwood shaded grove, this multi-light windowed 3 BR / 2 BA home is just minutes away from the village. New interior paint and newly restored hardwood floors. Charming home with lovely vistas.

Deb Riney

(510)339-8900

OAKLAND

Open Sun 2-4 pm



Oakland
Located in Oakland's historic Waterfront Tower loft building, this unit with its own "view" balcony is ready to be used as a home or office. Slate, concrete and industrial-sized windows are just a few of the features.

Miriam Wilson

(510)339-8900

Berkeley
3 BR / 2 BA. Living room with open beam ceiling and fireplace. Open kitchen, lots of decks, in-law potential and lots more. Come See!

Nick Lavrov

(510)339-8900

Lake Merritt
Sweeping views of downtown Oakland and out to the SF Peninsula Hills are seen from this beautifully decorated 2BR / 2 BA co-op on a high floor of this "White Glove" building on Lake Merritt's west shore. Included are 24 hr. doorman service & secure parking. Call for a showing appt.

Tom Erwin

(510)339-8900

Laurel
OPEN 1:30-4:30 PM
New listing! Spanish bungalow above MacArthur. Newer remodeled kitchen and bath. Beautiful hardwood throughout. Sunny breakfast area. Separate laundry. Rear fenced yard with lawn, off-street parking. 2BR / 1BA.

Hal Castle

(510)339-8900

Distinguished Home of the Week - OAKLAND



\$1,299,000

Beautiful level-in home overlooking canyon views. Updated kitchen, granite counters, great family room, large living room, high ceilings, 4BR / 2.5 BA w/ new marble finishes. 3-car garage, large decks, private yard area. Must See.

(510)339-8900

Mel Copland

North Oakland
Tastefully remodeled craftsman with many original details. Open floor plan, formal dining room with built-ins. Unfinished basement with potential office and garage. Close to freeway and Emerson.

Sarah Schisler

Oakland
Yes, there are still some deals around. 3 BR / 2 BA large home with tons of potential, reports available. Old school of architecture. First Served.

Nick Lavrov

Oakland
Ready to move in home. Lots of updating. 3 BR / 1.5 BA. Wonderful kitchen, living room, hardwood floors.

Fred Bronson

DANVILLE

925.314.1500

LAFAYETTE

925.935.9100

LIVERMORE

925.455.0505

MONTCLAIR

510.339.8900

Relocation Services 1.800.708.7356

Legacy First Financial 925.975.4300

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MORTGAGE RATES

15 YEAR FIXED		30 YEAR FIXED		30 YEAR FIXED JUMBO	
RATE	APR	RATE	APR	RATE	APR
6.25%	4.656%	5.375%	5.394%	5.75%	5.763%

510 748-8904

"Where People Come First"

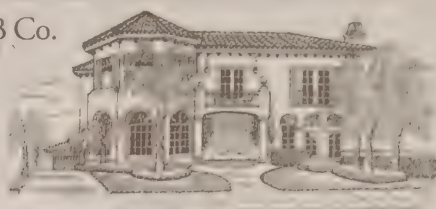
2130 Otis Drive • Alameda
email: BrydonB@BankofAlameda.com



Member FDIC

Mortgage rates are based on \$333,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and is subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Minimum down payment is 20%. Interest rate is 6.25% for 15 years and 5.375% for 30 years. Homeowners insurance is required. Jumbo mortgage rates are based on \$1,000,000 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and is subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Minimum down payment is 20%. Interest rate is 5.75% for 30 years. Homeowners insurance is required. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of March 9th, 2004 are subject to change without notice.

The GRUBB Co.



6183 Acacia Avenue, Claremont Pines

By Appointment. An elegant & stylish newer Mediterranean home. Five ++ bedrooms, four and one-half baths, Chef's kitchen/family room with Bay views, media and exercise rooms with a smashing master bedroom retreat. Large and level rear garden. Three-car garage.
Offered at \$2,300,000



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STASKY & COMPANY REAL ESTATE



IN CENTRAL
PIEDMONT!

Charming and beautifully built in 1940 level-in contemporary home with beautiful Bay, city and bridge views! Main level has three bedrooms plus den or fourth bedroom and two baths. The separate lower level has an additional bedroom with third bath plus a large family room or home office with private entrance. Beautiful level gardens!

To be offered at \$1,295,000
John Stasky (510) 525-8800



The GRUBB Co.



5871 Buena Vista Road, Rockridge

COMING SOON! A stylish new home in Upper Rockridge designed by Phil Perkins, finishes by Claudia Ellinghaus. Stainless railings, glass tiles, custom bar and rift-cut oak cabinetry. Spectacular views of the Bay, Bridges and San Francisco.
Offered at \$1,780,000



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BROKER ASSOCIATE
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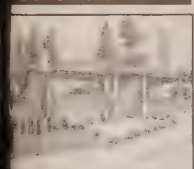
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Berkeley 510.486.1495 • Oakland 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT



Berkeley \$1,495,000
2 BR 4 BA Redone from the
ground up. Craftsman
style, quality details &
finish throughout. Huge
yard. Minutes to Gourmet
restaurants.
Victor Ratto 510.339.4700

Rockridge \$739,000
2 BR 4 BA Whimsical medieval
style. Formal Dining room,
delightful architectural detail.
Wood, near College Ave & Bart.
Diamantini 510.339.4700

Oakland Highlands \$599,000
2 BR 3 BA Charming 2-story cape
with wood floors, crown moldings,
updated kitchen, formal dining
room w/French doors to lovely
landscaped yard.
Victor Ratto 510.339.4700

Oakland \$598,000
2 BR 3 BA Bright Home! 5 BR 3 BA
with layout of 2,300 sq ft, elegant
kitchen/lobby w/HWF, spacious LR,
1 BR, Fam rm w/FP & wet bar.
Victor Ratto 510.339.4700

Cerrito \$499,000
2 BR 1 BA Split-Level! 2 BR 1 BA
great loc. nr Fat Apple's, Colusa
& Solano shops. Bright kit.
w/finable LR w/FP Basement
entry. Gar w/int. access.
Victor Ratto 510.486.1495

Oakland \$499,000
2 BR 2.5 BA Heights - 3 BR 2.5 BA
with full & serene, sweeping
views, spacious end unit
master suite, family rm, updated
kitchen level patio 2-car garage.
Victor Ratto 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

Oakland \$480,000
Spac. Co-op nr Chez Panisse.
2BR/1.5BA, FAB! Kitchen, Brick flpl,
very classy elevator bldg. Top Floor.
Possible financing available.
Diana Kay 510.486.1495

Montclair \$469,000
Charm & Character mark this circa
30's home plus cottage. Upgrades
include new kitchen, bath, & founda-
tion. Close to village and parks.
Dan Jay 510.339.4700

Oakland \$439,000
Laurel (Upper) - 3 BR 1 BA Fabulous
Tudor on Cul-de-sac, large Attic,
updated Kitchen & Bath, landscaped
yards, breakfast nook, HWF garage &
many more upgrades.
Victor Ratto 510.339.4700

Fruitvale \$379,000
3 BR 1 BA Large house on big lot!
Park-like backyard. Big basement,
many custom features: Hdwd flrs,
deck. Must see this one!
Terry Anthony 510.339.4700

Allendale Park \$365,000
Charming 3+ BR, 2 BA home, warm
HWF fireplace in living room, formal
dining room with built-ins, updated
bath. Just adorable!
Noni Robinson 510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES

Oakland Hills \$1,780,000
5 Diablo Dr Sun 2 - 5
5 BR 5.5 BA New construction with
fabulous views! Gourmet kitchen,
formal LR and DR. Interior courtyard.
David E. Judy A. 510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES



Claremont \$1,650,000
49 Vicente Pl Sun 2 - 4:30
5 BR 4.5 BA Mediterranean Villa.
Great location! Bay views! 2yrs. new
kitchen, formal living room/dining
room, Family room.
Joan Duffield 510.339.4700



Piedmont \$1,295,000
52 Sharon Avenue Sun 2 - 5
4 BR 3 BA Charming Piedmont
Traditional home, updated kitchen,
family room w/French doors to
garden. Bay views!
Haideh Chew 510.339.4700

Orinda \$839,000
202 The Knoll Sun 1 - 4
2+BR 2.5BA Stunning Contemporary
in Orindawoods. Dramatic
kitchen/family room, updated baths.
George Karsant 510.339.4700



Berkeley \$650,000
1627 10Th St Sun 2 - 5
2 BR 2 BA Unique Live-Work
Opport. Near Popular 4th St!
Perfect 2 BD bungalow loaded
w/upgrades.
Azaria Berhane 510.486.1495

OPEN HOMES



Montclair \$799,000
5829 Mc Andrew Drive Sun 1 - 5
Charming & spacious 2+ BR, 2+ BA
home. Piedmont side of Montclair,
extra sq ft downstairs!
Terry Anthony 510.339.4700

Oakland/Glen Echo Park \$529,000
388 Fairmont Ave Sun 1:30 - 5
3 BR 1.5 BA Grand Ole Dame built
in 1907. High ceilings, wd flrs,
country kit & huge unfinished Attic.
Donna Conroy 510.339.4700



Glenview \$519,000
1455 Wellington St Sun 2 - 5
Delightful 2+1, fml DR, hdwd flrs,
level yard.
Darcy Diamantini 510.339.4700



Oakland \$510,000
5407 Bryant Ave Sun 2 - 5
2 BR 1 BA Cute home in prime
Rockridge location. Fenced yard,
fpl, HWF, all near Bart & shops.
Terry Kulha 510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES

Oakland \$489,000
2743 26th Ave Sun 1 - 4:30
5 BR 4BA Unique Fruitvale Duplex:
plus (2) 1BR cottages. 4 garage
spaces, set up off street. Nice!
Victor Ratto 510.339.4700



El Cerrito \$405,000
804 Elm St. Sun 2 - 5
2 BR 1 BA Newly landscaped
Hardwood floors & original details.
Great neighborhood. Come see!
Laura Archiga 510.486.1495

Oakland \$399,950
3706 Nevil Street Sun 1 - 4
Charming Bungalow on nice street!
Kit/FR combo, HWF, landsc yd, full
basement, gar & workshop.
Vicky Faulk 510.339.4700

Laurel \$389,000
3686 Madrone Sun 2 - 4:30
2 BR 2 BA Great starter home, nice
sized kitchen w/eat-in nook, large
sunny backyard & a basement.
Becky Andersen 510.339.4700

Oakland \$219,000
10 Moss Avenue Sun 1 - 4:30
1 BR 1 BA Starter Condo near
Piedmont Ave. Nice street, clean
unit.
Victor Ratto 510.339.4700

Dimond District \$217,000
2901 MacArthur Blvd. #111 Sun 2 - 4:30
2 BR 1 BA Charming Dimond
District condominium near many
activity and shopping options.
Jeffrey Neideman 510.339.4700

1495 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

6137 La Salle Avenue, Oakland

Reid

FROM PAGE B6

Teachers

Teachers and Healthcare Workers are invited to a Wine and Cheese Tasting. Enjoy the refreshments as you learn about loans especially for you. Bank representatives will answer questions. For reservations and the date of the next workshop call Unified Brokers Capital at 925-521-1521.

Nominations

Prudential California Realty is seeking nomination for outstanding teachers. The PCR Education Foundation honors exceptional teachers each spring for their contributions. Cash grants are awarded. Nominees must be K-12 teachers, including special education teachers. To nominate a teacher and learn about the program go to www.prurealty.com/educationfoundation/nominee.asp.

Safety

PG&E offers many home safety

tips and emergency preparedness. You'll find checklists and other useful information. Have the kids check out the safety games on the site to learn and have fun. Go visit at PGE.com/safety.

Seniors

Georgia Richardson of Richardson Real Estate Services is offering New Lifestyles, an area guide to senior residences and care options. Guides are available for the San Francisco Bay or the Sacramento/North Bay areas. To obtain

a complimentary issue, contact Richardson at 510-569-3499.

DERBY

Just like the Kentucky Derby, dust off your favorite hat and get ready for the WCR East Bay Chapter Annual Day At The Races. The event tickets include parking, admission, buffet and reserved seating for racing excitement. Join the fun at the Golden Gate Fields Turf

See REID, Page B9

PLEASE REMEMBER

Real Estate Advertising Deadlines

Space Reservations: MONDAY, 12 Noon	Copy Requiring Typesetting: MONDAY, 5 pm
Copy & Artwork: TUESDAY, 12 Noon	Open Home Guide: WEDNESDAY, 12 Noon



Publisher's Notice

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination "Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents, or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Upper Rockridge

OPEN SATURDAY MARCH 13, 2-4:30PM
OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2-4:30PM



6363 Contra Costa Road, Oakland

Elegant and sophisticated, this exciting Upper Rockridge 5+ bedroom, 3.5 bath home boasts a fabulous designer kitchen, and stunning San Francisco Bay views. The lovely roof deck/garden is a perfect setting for catching sunsets while multiple decks and the rear garden and patio enhance indoor and outdoor living. A must see!

View online at www.6363ContraCosta.com

Offered at \$1,375,000



Richard Gould
Senior Sales Associate
(510) 338-1347



just ask our clients

pacunion.com

Northbrae

Open Sunday
2-4:30



Lovely Piedmont View Home

Stunning remodeled home with level entry at the end of a private drive! Formal dining area flows to living room with fireplace flanked by views and deck access. Gourmet kitchen, 3BD & 2 1/2 baths, rich hardwoods and wrap around decks. An affordable, light filled home with Piedmont schools!

Offered at \$729,000

2 Cavendish Lane, Piedmont

www.northbrae.com

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hbrhomes.com

El Sobrante

\$578,000 34 La Paloma Court. Mediterranean built in 2002! 4+ bd 2.5 ba and family room. Very spacious den/loft upstairs. Large lot, cul-de-sac location. Donnaluci 510-814-4826

Fremont

\$280,000 4537 Virio Common. Lovely 2 bd, 1.25 ba, 2 story end unit townhome with courtyard view. Bright kitchen and spacious dining area, updated bath, fresh interior paint, charming tiled patio & dual pane windows. George 510-814-4891

Oakland

For Lease 1504 Franklin St., #101 Approximately 1815 sq. ft. of office space available. This is a sublease that runs to April 30, 2005. Landlord will negotiate longer term if needed. Rich Krinks 510-814-4802

\$225,000 0 Burr St. Large lot with Bay & hill views! Zoned for multiple units or build your dream home. Close to Bishop O'Dowd. Call today! Donnaluci 510-814-4826

\$425,000 673-675 Sycamore St., Two 2 bd, 2 ba units in move-in condition. Deck on upstairs unit, fruit trees, big attached workshop with high grade electrical. Donnaluci 510-814-4826

\$425,000 960 86th Ave. Duplex! Two 2 bedroom, 1 bath units with separate meters for gas and electric. Fenced yard. Located near warehouses, auto body, and towing & storage companies. Janice 510-814-4846

\$462,500 1024 Wood St. Beautiful Victorian - 2BA Formal entry. Kathy 510-814-4700

\$475,000 1765-1769 Chesapeake. Zoned R3. 10,000 sq. ft. of large lot. Kathy 510-814-4706

\$1,660,000 3000 Nicol Ave. Income, 11 units. Two and nine 2 bd, 1 ba. com laundry. Pride of must see this building. Donn 510-814-4854

San Leandro

\$303,000 13733 Seagate Dr. bedroom laundry Comm. **PENDING**

\$395,000 14177 Seagate Dr. location adjacent to Course 2 50a laundry. Gated tennis courts and spa. **SOLD**

\$469,500 14665 Cypress St. Sun 2-4. Great home in attractive neighborhood. Kitchen/family room with fireplace in family room and built-in range in kitchen. 2-car garage. Connie 510-814-4846

\$650,000 280 Davis St. (Business & Property) Corner 1 block from downtown sq. ft., call for details! Donn 4854

\$1,350,000 1475 159th Ave. Income! Eight one bedroom units all on the ground floor. bedroom home all on one acre, 4 blocks to Bayfair center. May be possible to units? Bev & George Williams 4831

RE/MAX® EAST BAY HILLS

Congratulates our top producing agents & teams for their continued commitment to outstanding service in 2003



The Dave & Carla Higgins Team



Mauricio Rodriguez



Bobbi Vogel



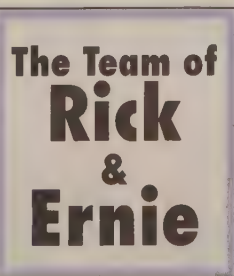
The Wayne Wilkerson Team



Fae Bidgoli



Wini Madison

The Team of
**Rick
&
Ernie**

James Shin



Eva Peralta

Chuck Ingram
Sales Manager

(510) 339-4100

RE/MAX® EAST BAY HILLS 2070 Mountain Boulevard, Oakland

earned through courses in negotiation, networking and referrals. It also includes organizational and personal performance management and cultural differences. Special exemptions are in place for LTG designees. Get course information at designation@wcr.org

MEETING

The Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County offers a membership meeting monthly. Non-members are also invited to attend. The next meeting is 6:45 p.m., Thursday, March 18. The meeting is held at the Greek Orthodox Church, on Lincoln Avenue, in Oakland. The guest speaker is Dennis Kaminski speaking on the new tax laws. For information and

registration call the RHANAC office at 510-893-9873.

TOUR

Oakland Realtors are invited to join Oakland affiliates at the monthly Tour Day Breakfast. The breakfast is 8:45, Thursday, March 25 at the OAR Building. Bring marketing flyers and an appetite. Network more - sell more. For questions and parking information call Ramadan Aziz of First American Title at 510-339-1230.

ARPB

The Associated Real Property

Brokers (ARPB) presents "The Dynamic Networking Breakfast", from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 17, at Jimmie's Entertainment Complex on San Pablo, in Oakland. Real estate agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. The meeting is open forum. For more information call **Tyrone Cooley** of Fidelity National Title at 510-893-8100.

SENIOR

Is it time to further your education? Would you like to earn a designation? Every day 6000 more Americans turn 65. Learn how to

earn their respect and gain their business. Become a Seniors Real Estate Specialist. For more information call 800-500-4564 or visit www.seniorsrealestate.com.

MONEY?

Are you working too hard? Not earning enough money? Learn the secrets of Top Producers, who have a life. By Referral Only presents "The Secrets of Top Producers", a free workshop. Find out how to have a profitable career working 40 hours a week. For workshop dates and locations call 800-834-1679.

WHO?

Who is the new President-elect of the Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter? **Felicia Favroth** of Seville Real Estate has that honor and duty. To say good job call her at 510-763-3320.

WHAT?

Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. I'd love to let the world know. Information deadline is two weeks before the

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264 N. Hather Street, Oakland
COMING SOON. Piedmont Avenue Fixer. A great location close to coffee, shopping and public transit, this home can be used as a duplex or reconverted to a spacious four bedroom, single family residence. Offered at \$575,000
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OFFICE: 652.2133/406
ddebardi@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Jack London Square Bath Gallery
Luxury Kitchen and Bath Fixtures With Personalized Service
510.832.2284
OPEN MON | TUES | WED | THURS 9AM-5PM | FRIDAY 9AM-7PM
1141 WILKINSON STREET, SUITE 100 OAKLAND, CA 94607

Open Sunday
March 14 1-4 pm
\$439,500
2223 7th Street, Berkeley
3++ bedroom, 2 bath, 1680 s.f. "Grandma's House" needs updating, but has great bones: spacious formal dining, big country kitchen, study/nursery off largest bedroom, built-ins and sweet yard. Near Rosa Parks K-5 school and convenient to 4th Street shops.
RITCHEY REAL ESTATE 510-527-3060

Gallagher & Lindsey, Inc.
REALTORS
521-8181 523-1010
OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4:30
3517 VICTOR, OAKLAND. VIEW, VIEW & MORE VIEW. Have it all: view of the city & view of peaceful wooded area. Gorgeous tri level, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large office or studio are on level 3. Must see to appreciate \$529,000. The McNeire's, 510-748-1111
OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4
625 HOLLYHOCK DR., SAN LEANDRO. SPACIOUS HOME. 4 bedrooms, 3 bath, vaulted ceilings, large open living area, with fireplace, large kitchen, granite countertops, tile floors, stainless steel appliances, in-law unit, 2 car garage, 510-748-1112
OPEN SUN 2-4
4722 FAIR AVE., OAKLAND. OAKLAND HILLS WITH EXPANSIVE BAY VIEWS! Terrific neighborhood. Approx. 2800 sqft beautiful refinished hardwood floors, 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 fireplaces & a greenhouse. \$575,000. Justin McCaskill, 510-748-1179
OPEN SUN 2-4
4812 MELROSE AVE., OAKLAND. LEGAL DUPLEX CURRENTLY USED AS SINGLE FAMILY HOME. Total of 4+ bedrooms large master suite, 2 full baths, 2 car garages, fireplace in large living room. \$420,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620
OPEN SUN 1-4
2630 VISTA GRANDE COURT, SAN LEANDRO. CUSTOM HOME WITH MANY UPGRADES. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 car garage, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, in-law unit, 2 car garage, 510-748-1112
OPEN SUN 2-4
1336 CARRISON ST., BERKELEY. 2 HOUSES ON 1 LOT. Berkeley Bungalow with 1 bedroom, 1 bath, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, in-law unit, 2 car garage, 510-748-1112
OPEN SUN 2-4
765-22ND ST., RICHMOND. IDEAL STARTER HOME. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths with master suite on the second floor. New carpet, hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, in-law unit, 2 car garage, 510-748-1114
OPEN SUN 2-4
1929-1931 OAK PARK BLVD., PLEASANT HILL. SPACIOUS DUPLEX. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, in-law unit, 2 car garage, 510-748-1112
SALES - RESIDENTIAL - INCOME - COMMERCIAL
INVESTMENT - RENTALS - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT. 522-3322
Sales@AlamedaRealEstate.com Gallagher and Lindsey, Inc.

Prudential California Realty

FEATURED HOMES

Oakland
Sunday 2-4 \$3,495,000
14100 Piedmont, 4+BR/4.5BA. Magnificent English Tudor. Incredible architectural detail. Grand scale formal rooms. Library, solarium, wine cellar, 2 car garage, 510-845-0211
Oakland
Sunday 2-4:30 \$895,000
1470 Fernwood, Oakland. Designer storybook tudor tastefully remodeled. Millie Lombardi (510) 339-9290
Oakland
Sunday 2-5 \$699,000
6941 Colton Blvd., Oakland. Montclair Classic! 3BR/2BA, vaulted ceilings, updated kitchen & baths, sunny & serene, level yard, 2 car garage. Bryan Salomone (510) 325-8035
Oakland
Sunday 2-5 \$525,000
639 Aileen. Lovely vintage 4BR home + legal 2BR flat! Just listed! Adrienne Nash (510) 845-0211
Oakland
Sunday 2-4:30 \$420,000
1025 90th Ave., Oakland. Spacious duplex. 3BR+/2BA & 2BR/1BA. Huge lot. Henriette Lanier-Green (510) 834-2010

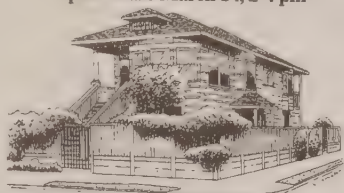
Oakland
Sunday 2-5 \$2,150,000
14100 Skyline. Art Busse masterpiece! Huge home with views! 4BR/3+BA. Joan Morrow (510) 845-0211
Oakland
Sunday 1-5 \$590,000
14100 Trestle Glen. 2+BR/1.5+BA. A real gem! Don't miss this! 510-774-5559
Oakland
Sat. & Sun. 1-4 \$525,000
14100 E. 9th St. Completely remodeled, 2 car garage, no HOA fees. 1 block to shopping & BART. 510-812-6777
Oakland
Sunday 2-4 \$500,000
14100 22nd St. at Telegraph. Victorian 2 car garage, 510-377-4545
Oakland
Sunday 2-5 \$489,900
14100 General Park Charm! Lg. 3BR/2BA, 2 car garage, new paint, new carpet, new kitchen, new bathroom, new garage parking, bonus rm. 510-845-0211
Oakland
Sunday 2-5 \$315,000
14100 Grand Starter. Good condition, spacious lot, 2 car garage, 510-868-1549
Oakland
Sunday 2-5 \$299,000
14100 79th Avenue. Dream starter. Totally remodeled, 510-301-2635
Oakland
Sunday 1-4 \$289,000
3 Embarcadero #233. 1+BR/1+BA. Loft style, huge balcony, upgrades galore. Joan Morrow (510) 604-7464
Oakland
Sunday 2-4:30 \$260,000
303 Adams #307. Spacious 1BR w/fireplace in good condition. Aleso & Vickie (510) 428-0900
Oakland
Sunday 1-4 \$235,000
1681 78th Ave. 2BR/1BA, fireplace, formal dining, bonus room. CP Yang (510) 834-2010
Berkeley
Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,099,000
2800 Claremont Blvd. Restore this grand dame! Opportunity! TamiBobb.com (510) 339-9290
Berkeley
Sunday 2-4:30 \$535,000
2728 Wallace St. Clean, well-maintained 4BR/2BA home. Quiet tree-lined street. Off-street parking. Cynthia (510) 868-1549
Berkeley
Sunday 2-4 \$469,000
1512 Virginia St. 2-2BR units. 1/2 block to BART. Michael Stephens (510) 339-9290
Berkeley
Sunday 2-4:30 \$335,000
1214 Parker St. 2BR/1BA. Fireplace, dining, nook, Berkeley's best probate sale. Irma Baldridge (510) 834-2010
Alameda
Sunday 12-5 \$650,000
2047 Eagle. 2200 sq.ft. 4BR/4BA, in-law, well-kept. Lillian Liao (510) 337-8670
Contra Costa
Sunday 1-4 \$599,900
5209 Carriage Dr., Richmond. 4BR/3BA beauty, lush yard. 334-4663. Laina Casillas (510) 527-9800
Emeryville
Sunday \$369,000
5855 Horton #810. 1BR/1BA, top floor w/views. New unit. Anthony Riggins (510) 428-0900
Montclair Quality \$1,595,000
Grand 4BR/3.5BA Craftsman w/huge family room/kitchen combo. Hdwd flrs & more! Millie Lombardi (510) 339-9290
Sunday 2-5 \$829,000
1023 Oakland Ave., Piedmont. 4BR/3BA, updated, new paint. Scott Thompson (510) 428-0900
Residential Income
Berkeley Investment \$1,006,000
6 units, 1 house gated, 2 parking spaces, coin laundry, convenient location. Lela Logene Butler (510) 868-1400, 868-1410
Lot For Sale
Bay View Lot \$175,000
Corner lot with Bay view on San Pablo/El Sobrante border. Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1400, 868-1487
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ALAMEDA 510-337-8670 **BERKELEY REGIONAL 510-868-1400** **CLAREMONT 510-845-0211** **EL CERRITO 510-527-9800** **GRAND LAKE 510-834-2010** **MONTCLAIR 510-339-9290** **PIEDMONT 510-428-0900**

House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section for

GORDON

**Victorian Duplex plus studio on
Oakland/Emeryville Border**
Open House March 14, 2-4 pm



1197 Ocean Avenue, Oakland CA 94608

Wonderful Victorian duplex and a non-conforming studio. Owner's unit three bedroom, two bath, lower unit is one bedroom, one bath

- Close to many Emeryville new developments, shops, Pixar, Andronico's Market, etc...Easy access to major Avenues, freeway
- Great Victorian with hardwood floors in both units. Third unit is non-conforming studio currently used as a Salon
- Lots of gardens! Sprinkler system in place. Three off-street parking spaces. Entire property fenced in, laundry facility on-site
- Move-in condition, great for owner/occupier!

Offered at: \$595,000

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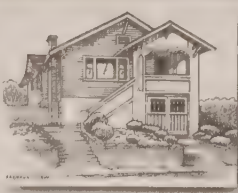
www.redoakrealty.com

JUST LISTED!

**2419 Potter Street
Oakland**

Offered at \$359,000

Open Sunday
March 14th & 21st, 2-4pm



Home Sweet Home

This warm 2+ bedroom bungalow is nestled in the desirable Maxwell Park district of Oakland. It features Bay views and has been painted inside and out with designer colors. The living room offers classic hardwood floors and a wonderful fireplace.

The eat-in kitchen is spacious with French doors that lead to the back yard, where you will find a variety of fruit trees and a lovely patio for entertaining. Not only is there an attached garage but there is also off street parking with level-in access to the house. It's ready for you to move right in!



SARAYA MOTLEY
510.280.2162

2983 College Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705

2 New Listings



5931 Clement Ave., San Pablo

#069 - CLEAN & BRIGHT! Sweeping views of the City and Bay from rm. Family rm w/fireplace and tropical backyard w/waterfall.



6818 Snowdon Ave., El Cerrito

#065 - Very nice area w/Golden Gate and City views from living room and 2 bedrooms. Transportation, school & shops. Carpet in bdrms & hwd floor in living rm.

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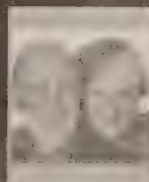
ANGELA WEI GRUBE



MINDY SCOTT



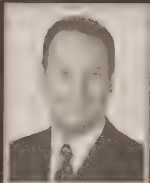
MARY DELACROIX



JOHN & JUDITH RATCLIFFE



HELENE BARKIN



KURT BUCHHOLZ



SUSIE SCHEVEL



NANCY LEBRINK



ERICA SMITH



DANA COHEN



DEBBIE DIMAGGIO



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DONNA DEBARDI



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ANNE VAN DYKE



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SANDRA VOGT



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SHERY BENNINGER



KAREN STARR



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RONALD EGGHERMAN



CHRIS CARR



LINDA MCCAIN



ANNE FUSTE



DIANE VERDUCCI



STEVE MICHAELIDES



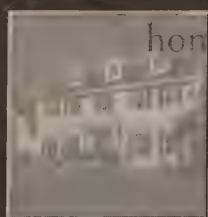
ELIZABETH DICKSON



RUTH FRASSETTO



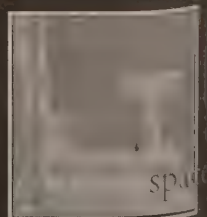
JOHN LEE



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First-time home seminar keeps key in the process

GALLAGHER AND LINDSEY

The real estate market in the East Bay is thriving. With interest rates at their lowest levels in 40 years this is a very good time for first-time buyers to consider purchasing a home.

Since there is a huge need to inform first-time home buyers, a seminar will be held on Saturday, March 20 from 10 a.m. until noon at the Oakland Airport Hilton hotel at Hegenberger Road and Doolittle Drive in Oakland.

As a first time home buyer, you are invited to attend this seminar where you will learn the key steps towards a successful home ownership:

The Role of the Home Mortgage Consultant

- The mortgage application process
- The importance of being "pre-approved" vs. "pre-qualified"
- The cost of ownership vs. the cost of renting

The Role of the Real Estate Professional

- Finding your new home
 - Presenting an offer on a home
 - Your offer has been accepted, what now!
- Among others, the following topics will be covered:
- 100 percent financing and alternative financing options
 - Calculating monthly payment

See SEMINAR, Page B12

GRUBB Co.



886 Vermont Avenue, Berkeley
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Two bedroom, one bath Cape Cod cottage embraced by a picket fence and rural lush gardens with a seasonal creek. A charming home in need of substantial renovation. Located conveniently close to Kensington Village. Offered at \$450,000

RUTH FRASSETTO

OFFICE: 652.2133/414

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DAVID RATOOSH / KEITH CARROLL - BROKERS

The GRUBB Co.



2812 Tiffin Road, Oakland

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Sunny Mediterranean with a classic floorplan. Country kitchen, custom home office, spacious and private level garden with various fruit trees. Great location! Great price! Offered at \$544,000

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Mille College Neighborhood!
Elegant proportions! Exquisite light!
2-car garage! Oversized lot!

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Bay
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OPEN SUNDAY
MARCH 14, 2-4:30PM


1874 San Juan Avenue, Berkeley

North Berkeley Charming. This lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath home features a master suite, remodeled kitchen and bathrooms, gardens. "Plus" space down for hobby room/storage. Close to Solano Avenue shops and transportation.

View online at www.1874SanJuan.com.

Offered at \$775,000



Joanna Gould

(510) 338-1346

(510) 527-8279

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• LAKE TAHOE 1-800-858-2463 Rentals/Sales www.tahoerentals.com

• WALNUT CREEK (925) 938-8484

OPEN 2-4:30



4633 ELVERTON DRIVE \$1,450,000

Gorgeous New Mediterranean with panoramic views. Five bedrooms, 4.5 baths, fireplace, home office, media room. Separation of space. Level-in design. Michael or Judy 531-7000x251



4633 MOORE DRIVE \$875,000

Approximately 2265 interior sq. ft. 3BD/3BA with full family room and great sits on approximately 12,600 sq. ft. lot. Amenities include double paneled windows, two fireplaces, random plank hardwood floors, tile kitchens and baths, tile upgrades, electrical and plumbing upgrades. Four car parking. Heidi Hennefer 531-7000x235



4633 4TH STREET #2A \$595,000

Historic London Square. The largest, most extraordinary loft available in historic Jack London Square! 1850 sq. ft. of luxury, one bedroom, one bath, rare corner unit, updated floors, and city lights. Heidi Butler 531-7000x232

OPEN 2-4:30



4633 GERANIUM \$552,000

Nice family home above 580. Oakland's best schools. Remodeled kitchen and half bath. Fireplace, bonus room in backyard. Three bedroom, one and half bathrooms. Michael or Judy 531-7000x251



3923 ELSTON AVENUE \$549,000

1st Open! Sunny bungalow in desirable neighborhood. Two plus bedroom, one bath. Freshly painted in & out, refinished hardwood floors. Spacious home office/au pair with separate entrance. Great location. Close to shops, restaurants, & transportation. Nancy or Chris 531-7000x254



3833 ENOS AVENUE \$520,000

1st Open! Charming three bedroom traditional. Formal dining room, hardwood floors, and plus room. Holda Novelo 531-7000x249

OPEN 2-4:30



538 LINCOLN AVENUE \$505,000

Alameda. Absolutely yummy! Classic 20's home with addition. Three bedrooms, two baths, family room, dining room, cook's kitchen. Delightful rainbow colors. Lovely landscaped yard. Stan Hammond 531-7000x246



7130 OUTLOOK \$354,950

Enjoy this 2BD/1BA starter with Bay view. Random plank hardwood floors in spacious living room and dining room, hardwood in both bedrooms and tile in the gleaming bathroom. Detached garage and off street parking. Large backyard. Must see! Carol Robbiano 531-7000x292

COMING SOON



Glenview. Cute 2BD/1BA in desirable neighborhood. Freshly painted interior, hardwood floors, brick fireplace, rebuilt detached garage. Convenient location. Nancy or Chris 531-7000x254

BY APPOINTMENT

MARVELOUS CRAFTSMAN W/ADDITION \$589,000

San Leandro-Broadmoor. Make this spacious home with original architectural detail your own! Four bedrooms, and one and one half bathrooms with large living room, formal dining room and huge recreation/media room on a level 10,000 sq. ft. lot. Must See! Carol Robbiano 531-7000x295

BY APPOINTMENT

SUNNY & INVITING HOME! \$349,900

Maxwell Park. 2BD/1BA with bay and hills view. Spacious living room with original tile fireplace, gorgeous refinished hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen and formal dining room, wonderful large private yard-a gardener's paradise! Kate Phillips 531-7000x228

THORNTON PROPERTIES

7 UNIT BUILDING \$879,000

Laurel. Good income! Six 1BD and one 2BD. Two units have newly renovated baths. Conveniently located near MacArthur Blvd. and 35th Avenue. Judy Vinton 531-7006x215

MIXED UNITS \$795,000

Oakland. Four 1BD residential units over two commercial storefronts. Five parking spaces off street. Perfect live-work setup. Foundation, electrical roof, plumbing has been redone. Near International Blvd. & 14th Avenue. Frank Hennefer 531-7006x235

4 UNIT BUILDING \$594,000

Melrose. Nice four units in good area. Two-two bedrooms, two-one bedrooms. Large backyard. New electrical service upgrades. Michael Childress 531-7000x215

FOUR COTTAGES ON A LOT \$449,900

Oakland. All 2BD/1BA with new roofs, fresh exterior paint, all very well-maintained, fabulous upside potential. Lot behind it for sale for \$49.9K. Owner prefers simultaneous sale. Pedram Karbassi 531-7000x290

LAND

VIEW OF BAY & CITY LIGHTS \$299,000

9100 sq. ft. upslope. Easy access, Claremont Hills location. Lots in this area are going fast, don't wait! Heidi Kearsley 531-7000x295

1/3 ACRE LOOKING OUT \$295,000

OVER GORGEOUS HILLS Sketches for amazing home will include SF & Bay view as well. Build your home next to million plus homes! Heidi Kearsley 531-7000x295

4786 SQ. FT. CONTIGUOUS LOT \$49,900

Lot offers expansion. Apparently zoned R30 for SFR only. Check with city. Seller prefers simultaneous sale with four cottages in front. Pedram Karbassi 531-7000x290

Seminar

FROM PAGE B11

■ Calculating your maximum loan amount
Three firms will participate in this seminar:
■ Representing Gallagher and Lindsey, Inc., Realtors, will be Re-

altors: Rolando and Coqui Basora, Anne DeBardeleben, Justine Francis, and Jim Nations.
■ Presenting financial information will be Nina Jones, home mortgage consultant from Wells Fargo
■ Representing Alliance Title Company will be Carmen Deutschman who is responsible for business development.

"This seminar is going to be an excellent way for first time buyers to get on track to educate themselves on purchasing real estate," said DeBardeleben "During the session there will also be time for questions with the experts on hand with the answers."
To enroll call 877-363-9920, or visit
www.gallagherandlindsey.com.

GLEN ECHO PARK OAKLAND

OPEN SUNDAY
March 14OPEN HOURS
1:00-5:00 PM

388 Fairmount Ave.

Grand ole dame built in 1907! This stately traditional home features high ceilings in the living and dining room, wainscoting in dining and master bedroom, wood floors, old country kitchen with eating space, and there's pull-down stairs for access to huge attic space! Plus there's a backyard with planter boxes and a patio area for play. Such a wonderful place to call HOME!

Offered at \$529,000

Donna Conroy 510-339-4723
Tour at www.donnaconroy.com



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A FREE SEMINAR

SPEAKER:

NANCY L. DOUGLAS, ESQ.

Vice President, Old Republic Exchanges
Regional Account Manager
1031 Tax Deferred Exchanges

23 years legal career in Real Property Law
Member Executive Committee of Real Property Section State of California

WHEN: Saturday, March 13th

WHERE: Berkeley Association of Realtors
1553 Martin Luther King (Cedar at MLK)

TIME: 10am to 12noon

Additional Information at:

www.4EastBayAreaHomes.com : 1031 Exchanges

ROBIN KINGSBURY

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Red Oak Realty - 1891 Solano Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707



The GRUBB Co.



16 Humphrey Place, Crocker Highlands

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Sexy and sophisticated Crocker Highlands. Built in 1938, this fabulous home is situated on an approximately private knoll. Three bedrooms, two baths. Den/study. Tastefully throughout. Wonderful indoor/outdoor access, great for entertaining.

Offered at \$995,000



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1822 Berkeley Way, Unit

\$485,000

Sun-drenched, updated upper unit in 3-unit complex. Unit 2 is approximately 1,100 sq. ft. bedrooms, 1 bath. Large, sunny living room for stereo. Updated bath with skylight and tile floors. Spacious, updated eat-in kitchen w/ Pergo floors and Jenn-Aire range/oven/grill w/ built-in fan. Private covered rear deck perfect cozy entertaining. Large backyard, new roof (partial), track lighting. DishNetwork satellite wired for DSL.

Open Sunday, March 14

Deborah Everett (510) 435-6406
1484 Solano Avenue, Albany, CA

BERKELEY HILLS REALTY

www.berkhill

View Photo Tours on the Web

624 Talbot Ave., Albany
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

New Listing! 3+ bedrooms, 3 baths. Flexible floor plan and glorious space. Large master bedroom, rumpus room and attached garage. Very clean with clear pest report.

Bill & Tracy 524-9888 x33 \$538,888

1049 Pomona Ave., Albany
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Light, livable fixer in a great neighborhood. Wonderful original 1926 details, a great floor plan and lots of room for a workshop in the basement. Newer roof plus a functional kitchen and bath. Large attached garage.

Bill & Tracy 524-9888 x33 \$449,000

850 Liberty Street, El Cerrito
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

Freshly painted, bright and sunny El Cerrito 2 bedroom with gleaming, refinished maple wood floors. Sliding door leads to secluded deck and garden. Detached garage with workshop area.

Gay & Kay 524-9888 x51 \$398,000

"A belated thanks for the dedication, resourcefulness, good cheer and patience you showed throughout our lengthy search for a house."

—A. & B. N., Berkeley

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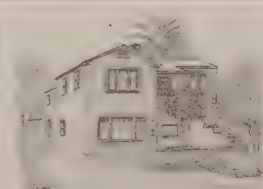
marvin gardens real estate



El Sobrante, 5290 San Pablo
Dam Rd. Upper Unit #A18
\$149,000

One bedroom condo with views of hills. Hardwood floors with tile and marble, newer kitchen appliances, freshly painted. Quiet complex with pool.

Open Sunday 2-4
Meridee Carter 527-2700 x39



Berkeley, 2140 California St.
\$550,000

Duplex fixer on large lot! Great central Berkeley location! Partial estate sale, sold "As-Is". 2 bedrooms, 2 baths UP, 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths DOWN. Detached garage + a separate outbuilding.

Open Sunday 2-4
Terry Pedersen 527-2700 x36



El Cerrito, 720 Albemarle St.
\$449,000

Move right in to this beautifully redone, spacious two bedroom, one bath home in a sought-after neighborhood. Sunny and light split level with gleaming hardwood floors.

Open Sunday 2-4
Joan Underwood 559-2911



Richmond, 967 Lassen
\$399,000

White picket fence property! Beautifully maintained and updated. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room with fireplace, laundry porch, lovely artist's studio - all on large landscaped level lot. Only one open house.

Open Sunday 2-4
Barbara Kaplan 559-2910



Oakland, 5467 Wadsworth
\$1,199,000

Lovingly maintained two story home. 3 bedrooms, one bath home. 1st floor, sitting room, study, dining room with built-in window seat. Updates include: New kitchen, new bath plumbing, new lawn.

Open Sunday 2-4
Crystal Elliott

1577 Solano Ave., Berkeley
(510) 527-2700

7502 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito
(510) 527-9111

289 Arlington Ave., Kensington
(510) 524-0800

147 W. Richmond Ave., El Cerrito
(510) 231-1640

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SALES

106 The Uplands - \$901,000	2219 12th Av - \$306,000	2744 77th Av - \$277,000
EL CERRITO	655 12th 116 - \$344,000	1230 79th Av - \$315,000
788 Colusa Av - \$580,000	655 12th 120 - \$347,000	1240 80th Av - \$250,000
6245 Cypress Av - \$575,000	2514 21st Av - \$343,500	1548 80th Av - \$239,000
528 Lexington Av - \$460,000	683 35th St - \$307,000	1131 83rd Av - \$192,000
3440 Yosemite Av - \$850,000	839 35th St - \$360,000	1701 84th Av - \$295,000
EL SOBRANTE	1940 36th Av - \$277,000	1129 92nd Av - \$350,000
603 Del Valle 36 - \$235,000	459 37th St - \$639,500	2220 92nd Av - \$280,000
4040 Lambert Rd - \$375,000	668 42nd St - \$420,000	3935 Ardley Av - \$601,000
3430 SP Dam 10 - \$198,000	526 44th St - \$370,000	8040 B way Tr - \$668,500
EMERYVILLE	954 46th St - \$310,000	825 Calmar Av - \$828,000
1200 65th 303 - \$424,000	959 55th St - \$406,000	5439 Claremont - \$301,000
4 Admiral B445 - \$280,000	1136 61st Av - \$260,000	2020 East 19th St - \$399,000
3 Captain D304 - \$235,000	2350 63rd Av - \$300,000	1021 East 21st St - \$305,000
6363 Christie 1201 - \$282,500	698 63rd St - \$475,000	1901 East 28th St - \$335,000
6363 Christie 406 - \$515,000	3569 72nd Av - \$335,000	5443 El Camille Av - \$280,000
5855 Horton 711 - \$569,000	1047 75th Av - \$317,000	
1500 Park Av 215 - \$181,500	2670 76th Av - \$180,000	
1500 Park Av 315 - \$300,000		
OAKLAND		
1104 103rd Av - \$200,000		

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1293 Sunnyhills Road
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 RECENTLY SOLD
 Originally offered at \$1,089,000

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Gilbert & Simos, Inc.
 REALTORS

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2-4:30PM

3237 Burdeck Drive, Oakland
 A TROPHY HOUSE!
 Forget understated elegance. This almost NEW 4 bedroom, 3 bath modern traditional sits on an approx. 1/2 acre oak-studded parcel with smashing unobstructed BAY VIEWS. It exudes quality in every inch of its over 3,300 sq. ft. Ultra private setting. A must see property!
 Offered at \$1,295,000
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8725 & 8727 Coolidge Avenue
 OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Two vacant homes on one large lot in the Laurel district above MacArthur and one home is brand new! One is a sweet home with two bedrooms and one bath, the other was just built and offers three bedrooms and two baths. This is a great investment opportunity!
 Offered at \$599,000
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UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,550,000
 HILLTOP CRIS. (Open 2-4:30)
 Spectacular all-level 4BR/3BA home on 1+ acre, SF/GG views, fabulous formal rooms, soaring ceilings, beautiful pool & landscaped gardens. Backup equipped. Dee Knowland x1318

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,375,000
 CONTRA COSTA (Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30)
 Sophisticated 5+BR/3.5BA home. Fabulous designer kitchen, stunning SF views. Rear garden & charming patio. Great indoor/outdoor living. Lovely pool. Rich Gould x1347

OAKMORE \$1,350,000
 MELVIN RD. (Open 2-4)
 Excellent Mediterranean estate. Sweeping views of city & bay. Glorious gardens. Luxurious environment. Beautiful period details. 4BR/3.5BA. Jack McPhail x1336

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,295,000
 BURDECK DR. (Open 2-4:30)
 Great worthy! Almost new 4BR/3BA modern traditional on approx. one-half acre. Unobstructed bay views. 3300+ sq. ft. Ultra private setting. Fritz Hochfelner x1348

BERKELEY \$775,000
 SAN JUAN AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
 North Berkeley charmer with 3+BR/2BA, garden & level yard. Remodeled kitchen & baths. Close to shops & transportation. Joanna Gould x1346

ROCKRIDGE \$985,000
 BELGRAVE PL. (Open 2-4:30)
 Beautifully restored & updated 1914 traditional. Lovely architectural details. 4+BR/2.5BA. 2 bonus rooms, cook's kitchen, rebuilt garage, level yard. Ann Nichols x1319

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,295,000
 32 DOWNEY PL. (Open 2-4:30)
 Near Piedmont border. Exquisite light-filled 4BR/3BA Tudor home. Lush gardens. Impeccably remodeled, spectacular architectural details. Leslie Avant x1341

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,050,000
 818 NORTHVALE RD. (Open 2-4:30)
 \$145,000 price reduction! Grand 5BR/4BA traditional w/plus spaces. Landscaped large level yard, fresh paint in & out. Near shopping & transportation. Joanna Hirsch x1366

UPPER OAKMORE \$699,000
 2333 LEIMERT BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)
 Back on market! Looking for a Pied a terre? New Listing! Beautifully remodeled 3BR/2BA home. Sophisticated style, high quality materials. SF views, gourmet kitchen, attached garage, Montclair schools, patio & yard. Donna Costella x1355

SAN LEANDRO \$524,900
 3467 MONOGRAM ST. (Open 1-4)
 Fabulous 3BR/2.5BA home built in 2000. Maple floors, gourmet kitchen & family room. Yard w/tile patio, gazebo & spa. Convenient location. Candy Benny x1328

BERKELEY \$495,000
 885 COLUSA AVE. (Open 2-4)
 Back on market! Looking for a Pied a terre? Custom designed condo 1+BR/1.5BA. Approx 17ft. ceilings, huge deck, shared yard. Solano Avenue at your doorstep. An architectural gem! Leslie Easterday x1363

PIEDMONT \$4,750,000
 Magnificent English with incredible detail on approx 2/3 acre level land. Grand formal rooms, 6+BR/6BA, pool, Georgia Cornell x1325

PIEDMONT \$3,880,000
 Magnificent Mediterranean w/SF views located on a very desirable street. Perfect for comfortable living & large scale entertaining. Exceptional architectural details. 7BR/6.5BA. Rosalie Woods x1324

PIEDMONT \$3,495,000
 Stately English Tudor with 4+bedrooms, 4+ baths, incredible architectural detail, library, family room & guest suite. Georgia Cornell x1325

PIEDMONT \$2,650,000
 Elegant 1932 Mediterranean w/ beautiful original architectural details. 4BR/3BA, family room, remodeled kitchen, cozy breakfast room, private patio & garden. Beautiful views. Charlotte Boyle x1370

PIEDMONT \$1,175,000
 Stunning Spanish style home with 6+BR/4BA, formal dining room & breakfast room level out to oversized patio & terraced garden. Rosalie Woods x1324

EL CERRITO \$1,050,000
 Six units. Fourplex and duplex on large corner lot. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths & 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Good condition. Francis Heath x1357

PIEDMONT \$995,000
 Warm, friendly Dutch Colonial on a great street, just a short distance from beautiful Dracena Park. 3BR/2.5BA, den/office, family room level-out to spacious yard. Formal dining room. Debi Fitzgerald x1306

UPPER ROCKRIDGE price upon request
 3BR/2BA contemporary. Open floor plan. Updated kitchen w/granite, updated baths. Wooded/hill views. Convenient to Village, Rockridge & transportation. Jeffrey Himmel x1307

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$799,000
 Charming, updated Mediterranean w/ 3BR/2.5BA. Formal dining room, remodeled kitchen w/breakfast nook. Over 9000 sq. ft. lot w/flagstone patio, lawn & planting boxes. David Ichikawa x1331

FRUITVALE \$375,000
 2BR/1BA cottage. Formal dining room, hardwood floors, updated kitchen. Separate studio. Park-like setting with Koi pond. Lee Jacobson x1309

Sales

FROM PAGE B13

10040 Empire Rd - \$293,000
6723 Evergreen Av - \$610,000
1508 Fernwood Dr - \$775,000
988 Franklin 327 - \$250,000
801 Franklin St - \$230,000
7879 Garfield Av - \$250,000

9310 Golf Links Rd - \$469,000
3620 Hageman Av - \$277,000
5525 Harvey Av - \$310,000
2230 Havenscourt - \$280,000
4636 Kaphan Av - \$475,000
10210 Longfellow - \$355,000
4139 Lyon Av - \$315,000
1954 Magellan Dr - \$540,000
4150 Maynard Av - \$485,000
245 Montecito Av - \$253,000

3012 Monticello Av - \$395,000
7717 Ney Av - \$585,000
5800 Nottingham - \$530,000
311 Oak St 503 - \$525,000
567 Oakland 202 - \$185,000
6167 Overdale Av - \$331,500
10881 Packard St - \$358,000
2909 Park Bl - \$585,000
330 Park View 303 - \$410,000
155 Pearl St #105 - \$162,000

10314 Pearmain St - \$119,500
2241 Ransom Av - \$400,000
3686 Rockwood Rd - \$537,000
6242 Rockwell St - \$786,000
79 Shadow Mountain - \$440,000
6401 Snake Rd - \$741,000
4186 St. Andrews - \$240,000
4974 Stoneridge Ct - \$663,000
23 White Ct - \$1,400,000
2 Woodside Glen - \$875,000

PIEDMONT

45 Wildwood Av - \$920,000

RICHMOND

637 16th St - \$189,000
542 21st St - \$232,000
665 3rd St - \$299,500
587 5th St - \$235,000
1541 6th St - \$285,000
1821 6th St - \$328,000

2921 Alta Mira - \$250,000
6080 Arlington Bl - \$250,000
1320 Battery St - \$250,000
1200 Brickyard 211 - \$250,000
407 Commodore Dr - \$250,000
605 Commodore Dr - \$250,000
744 Devils Drop Ct - \$250,000

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\$145,000 PRICE REDUCTION! Large 5BR/4BA home with 2 plus rooms. Wonderful architectural details & beautifully refinished hardwood floors. Freshly painted inside & out. Newly landscaped, large level yard. Convenient location.



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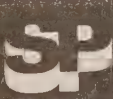
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1751 Liberty, Units 101, 104 & 301

Carylon Dopp

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3BR, 2BA home with beautiful glossy oak floors, tile kitchen with many custom touches. Wonderful hot tub and a large patio for those summer get-togethers. #300005880.

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5.375 5.250

CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE

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www.mtginfo.com/ccf					Rates as of 3/9/04
COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	COMMENTS
AlmLoan.com 888-411-4246 DRE# 01235124 Fees=\$2400	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.323 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.529 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.500 ... 0.250 4.680 ... 30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375 ... 0.125 4.201 ... 30	Apply and lock online 24/7. Open Sat. and Sun. from 9am til 2pm Rates and Fees Posted Online Daily
Amerisave Mortgage Corp. 866-514-7283 DCCR# 6038692 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.000 5.330 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 0.000 5.357 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.000 ... 0.000 3.970 ... 30	5/1 ARM 3.750 ... 0.000 4.095 ... 30	*APR includes bank fee. Save money www.amerisave.com. Best rates and lowest fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300
Bank of America 877-88-FIXED Fees=\$1806	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.893 5.355 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 1.285 5.517 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 1.237 4.691 ... 30	6 Mo Interest Only 2.625 ... 1.175 3.158 ... 30	*Purch only 100%Financing Avail - Fast Closings. No Cost for Appraisal - Refi today! Low/Mid Income Programs Avail.
Bank of America Mortgage 925-688-3760 Fees=\$1406	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 1.018 5.417 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 1.410 5.576 ... 30	6 month ARM 3.000 ... 0.290 3.091 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.375 ... 1.677 3.769 ... 30	*Purchase only Call for refinance Rates 925-688-3760 / 877-88-Fixed
Bay Area Funding 925-930-3100 DRE# 769452 Fees=\$2316	30-yr Fixed 4.990 ... 1.000 5.194 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 1.000 5.576 ... 30	1st Time Buyer 30 4.250 ... 1.000 4.445 ... 30	1st Time Buyer 5/1 3.250 ... 1.000 3.434 ... 30	*Effective 30 yr. rate w/ ref. subsidy Must be 1st Time Home Buyer Income & price limits apply. 100% fin
BayCal Financial Corp. 408-719-6800 DRE# 01116698 Fees=\$1704	30-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 1.250 5.093 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 1.250 5.409 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 ... 0.000 4.045 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.375 ... 0.000 3.419 ... 30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 ML Interest Only to 2 MIL. 6 MOS. 3/1, 5/1 180 Days Lock. NEW Construction Home PUR
Buckingham Mtge. Corp. 866-721-4500 DCCR# 603-8905 Fees=\$2135	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.270 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.485 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.375 ... 0.000 4.450 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.750 ... 0.000 3.685 ... 30	7/1 - 4.375%, 10/1 - 4.825% JUMBO 0 Pts. Stated. No Doc. Int. Only Commercial also Open 24/7, 7 days a week!
Cal First Lending 877-414-8280 DRE# 01316954 Fees=\$1623	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.321 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.531 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.625 ... 0.000 4.694 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 ... 0.000 4.028 ... 30	OPEN WEEKENDS, FAST & EZ APRVAL CASHIN NO POINT NO FEES LOANS AVAILABLE. Call 877-414-8280 or WWW.CALFIRSTLENDING.COM
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE# 00874441 Fees=\$2010	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.290 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.540 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 ... 0.000 4.160 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625 ... 0.000 3.660 ... 30	Cal-State Funding. Can fund your loan. Rates change daily. call for latest rate. We are here to satisfy your needs
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-9339 DRE# 01370755 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 1.250 5.173 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 1.000 5.368 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.122 ... 0.000 3.122 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.750 ... 1.250 3.877 ... 30	Open Sat & Sun. Quik Qualifier & stated or no income option available Credit Problems O.K
Countrywide Home Loans 800-696-3822 Fees=\$1215	30-yr Fixed 5.625 ... 0.000 5.699 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 0.000 5.782 ... 30	10/1 yr Jumbo IO 5.000 ... 0.000 5.030 ... 30	12 Mo Fxd Pay IO 1.250 ... 0.000 3.261 ... 30	10 GUARANTEE CLOSING ON PURCHASES FREE FINANCING. LESS PAPERWORK FREE PRE-APPROVAL FOR PURCHASES
Custom Mortgage Solutions 800-259-9510 DCCR# 6038694 Fees=\$1145	30-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 2.000 5.190 ... 35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.621 ... 35	15-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 0.500 4.619 ... 35	COFI 30 yr ARM 1.950 ... 0.000 4.680 ... 60	*Fast! Fast Closings! No Doc to 51M *Loans for A-B-C-D Credit. 100% Purchase *Loans to \$4 Mil. Call for Approval *Pot Neg Mtg
ditech.com 800-395-1376 DCCR# 8132004 Fees=\$1890	30-yr Fixed 4.750 ... 2.000 5.041 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000 ... 2.000 5.241 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 2.000 4.746 ... 30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.750 ... 2.000 5.146 ... 30	Apply online at www.ditech.com -Your mortgage solution. Delivered!
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DCCR# 86037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 1.625 5.297 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 1.000 5.353 ... 45	1-mo COFI ARM 1.250 ... 1.000 4.593 ... 45		Direct lender. 45 yrs experience, fixed & adjust rate mtgs; *Pot. neg. amort Apply online at www.downeysavings.com
First Blackhawk Financial 800-796-MARY DRE# 01144055 Fees=\$1986	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.340 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.539 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 ... 0.000 4.161 ... 30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875 ... 0.000 4.912 ... 30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST more rates at marylighting.com Call 7days wk mthlight@1stblackhawk.com
Hamilton National Mortgage 800-220-7334 DCCR# 4130379	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.000 5.186 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.400 ... 30	10-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 0.000 4.310 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 0.000 4.431 ... 30	CONSISTENTLY THE LOWEST RATES SINCE COMPETITIVE NO COST LOANS WWW.HAMILTONNATIONAL.COM
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 01039392 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 1.000 5.320 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 1.000 5.570 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 1.000 4.570 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.750 ... 1.000 3.940 ... 30	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR A HONEST, LOCKABLE RATE FIRST! WHY I GET SO MANY REFERRALS I CALL NOW!
Matrix Investment Corp. 800-366-8916 DCCR# 4130416 Fees=\$1831	30-yr Fixed 4.625 ... 1.990 4.855 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000 ... 1.750 5.129 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.000 ... 1.750 4.441 ... 30	30-yr Fxd 0 Pts 5.125 ... 0.000 5.225 ... 30	Mortgage Bankers Coast to Coast! Brokers welcome! Great Commercial Loans! visit us at www.matrixinvestmentcorp.com
Mortgage Center USA 800-640-5588 DRE# 00881816 Fees=\$1770	30-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 2.000 5.120 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000 ... 2.000 5.213 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.125 ... 2.000 4.330 ... 30	10 yr Int Only ARM 3.000 ... 0.000 3.138 ... 30	5/1 3.250 2pts APR 3.303 WOW! INT ONLY NO COST LOANS E Bay Offices 800-640-5588 Purchase and Refinance Specialist
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE# 00887562 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.339 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.716 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.500 ... 0.000 4.649 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875 ... 0.375 3.973 ... 30	Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty. all gov't loans. 100% loans, credit lines, construction
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DRE# 01243581 Fees=\$2348	30-yr Fixed call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...	6 month ARM call ...		WOW!! NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS! No-Point loans are available! (3yr pop) E-mail Steve@northernmutual.com
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE# 0124581 Fees=\$1894	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.352 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.544 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 ... 0.000 4.166 ... 30	5/1 ARM 3.875 ... 0.000 3.970 ... 30	Se Habla Espanol. 100% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK
Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6633 DCCR# 4130386 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.000 5.184 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 0.000 5.277 ... 30	3/1 ARM 2.750 ... 0.000 3.647 ... 30	5/1 ARM 3.750 ... 0.000 3.867 ... 30	Get rates online at www.pmgmortgage.com Purchase specialist-we get loans closed! Credit & Interest Only programs. *Purchase only
Sanitell & Associates 800-516-0656 DRE#0054993 Fees=\$1745	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.341 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.539 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.375 ... 0.000 3.458 ... 30	30-yr ARM 1.950 ... 0.000 4.719 ... 30	OPEN WEEKENDS / 0 POINTS - 0 COSTS AND INTEREST ONLY/DOWN PMT/Full cash out APPLY ONLINE AT www.loanpaperwork.com
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 01220328 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...	15-yr Fixed call ...	5/1 ARM call ...	Loan for all credit grades! No Income Check Loans. No Upfront Fees Purh/Refi to 100% Saratogabancorp.com
Washington Mutual Bank 925-256-7171 Fees=\$1149	30-yr Fixed 5.500 ... 0.000 5.563 ... 60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 ... 0.000 5.674 ... 60	1-yr ARM 1.250 ... 0.000 3.879 ... 60	Rental Property 1.650 ... 0.000 4.294 ... 60	Purchases: 5 day close/no points. Complimentary pre-approvals. Available 7 days a week. *Pot del int
Western Capital Mortgage 408-615-9355 DRE# 01080489 Fees=\$1630	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.250 5.262 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.250 5.447 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 0.000 4.568 ... 30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.750 ... 0.250 4.871 ... 30	No Closing Cost Loans Available Ask about our 5/1 & 7/1 ARMs & BALLOONS Apply Online at www.loanwestrates.com
A American Resid. Lend. 800-566-8470 DRE# 4130340 Fees=\$1624	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.000 5.215 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.414 ... 45	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 0.000 4.526 ... 45	1-yr ARM 1.250 ... 0.000 1.340 ... 45	Refi, purchase or consolidate now! www.mortgagesresidential.com M-F 7:00-9:00, S-S 7:00-5:00 *pot neg mtg
A Superior Mortgage 800-591-4446 DRE# 01351704 Fees=\$1889	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.430 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.580 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 0.000 4.550 ... 30	5/1 ARM 4.000 ... 0.000 4.170 ... 30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK. *Apply online* www.superior-mtg.net
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE# 01098146 Fees=\$1595	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.340 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.590 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 ... 0.000 4.035 ... 30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000 ... 0.000 5	

Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section. The first place to look when looking for a new home.

New Listing In Oakland!
OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH 2-4:30PM



~ 7131 Snake Road ~

Owner Perfect! Sweeping Bay view and beautifully appointed, this completely remodeled home offers Open floor plan, wonderful room proportions, terrific indoor/outdoor entertaining spaces. A True Gem! 3 BR + office, including private master suite plus remodeled kitchen. You don't want to miss this one! Price upon request

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COLDWELL BANKER

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Laurel District
3686 Madrone

Charming traditional with 2 bedrooms & 2 baths. Minutes to shops & transportation. Sunny yard with patio, new paint inside, cozy eat-in nook. Too cute!
\$389,000



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OUTSTANDING BUY!

Fabulous park-like setting with pool. 5 BD/2.5 BA, +/- 2440 sq. ft. Updated kitchen and bath room. Formal Dining Rm. Plus blk. area. Close to schools, parks downtown and easy freeway access. CALL!!!

SALE \$769,000

Delightful 1920s BUNGALOW

w/great floor plan. Lots of updates. Detached garage & spacious backyard. Ready for immediate occupancy. Honey, call the moving van!!!!

SALE \$469,000

Immaculate one-level remodeled 3BR, 2BA

home of desirable East End. Lots of updates. Master bedroom has french doors opening to expansive deck. Fireplaces. Detached workshop storage and private fenced garden. Close to schools, parks and shopping.

SALE \$585,000



OAKLAND \$299,000



OAKLAND \$975,000



BERKELEY \$1,100,000



N. OAKLAND \$850,000

PERFECT STARTER HOME

SHOWS VERY WELL!

spacious 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. Detached garage, large backyard. **WY BUY A CONDO PPP** Come & Stake your Claim NOW!!

7 WELL KEPT UNITS ON A LARGE LOT
1 - 3 BD/1.5 BA, 4 - 2 BD/1 BA, 2 - 1 BD/1 BA

New roof and recent upgraded and painting. Parking in rear. **NO EXCHANGE NEEDED!!!**

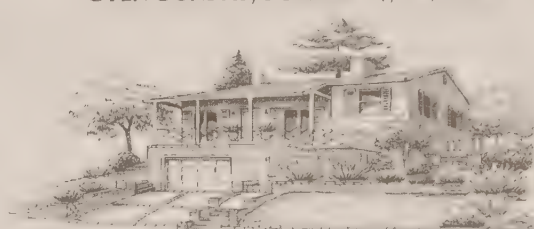
BERKELEY 6-Unit Apartment!
6 - 2 BD Units, ALL VACANT!

Lots of recent remodel work. **VERY SHARP!**

Owner may even carry some \$\$\$

Commercial w/4 retail stores large corner lot w/ high VISIBILITY & high TRAFFIC count. Currently, Café-Cleaners-Beauty Salon. One VACANT Owner Use? Plenty of off street parking. Call on this wonder!

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2-4:30PM



2333 Leimert Boulevard, Oakland

With attention to detail, the current owners have lovingly remodeled this 3BR, 2BA Oak home with sophisticated style and high quality materials. Outdoor access through 3 sets of French doors blend the patio, grassy yard, front porch and San Francisco bay views with indoor living spaces

Bleached oak floors • High ceilings with crown molding • Italian marble fireplace
Gourmet kitchen with quality appliances, granite counters and access to patio
Built-in entertainment center with surround sound system
Italian tile baths • Attached garage • Montclair schools • Ample storage



Offered at \$699,000

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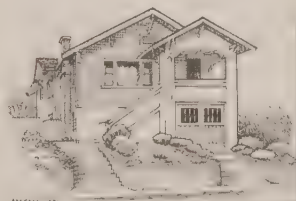
RED OAK REALTY

www.redoakrealty.com

Homes Open Sunday



KENSINGTON - NEW LISTING! \$559,000
3/1.5 - Views of S.F. Bay and garden. Sunny home with 2-car garage. Refinished hardwood floors.
295 Colgate Avenue Open 1:30-4



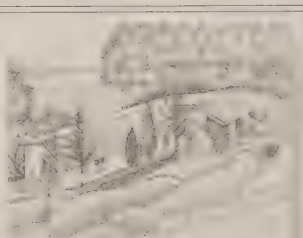
OAKLAND - NEW LISTING! \$359,000
2+1/1 - Maxwell Park charmer. Hardwood floors, fireplace in living room. Fresh paint inside and out. Views, yard with fruit trees, basement, attic & more!
2419 Potter Street Open 2-4



SAN PABLO \$294,000
3/1 - Charming home on large lot with mature fruit trees. Stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer included. More photos at www.redoakrealty.com.
2975 14th Street Open 2-4

Premier Home

BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$2,200,000
Once in a lifetime a spectacular property unlike any other becomes available in Berkeley. This is it! Mesmerizing panoramic Golden Gate, Bay, & San Francisco views from every room. Approximately 2.84 acre paradise overlooks UC Berkeley. This four bedrooms, three bath 3,575 square foot, two-level home is on a private road where your only neighbors are deer, birds, and trees. A rare opportunity to have your own private park with fabulous indoor/outdoor flow. Nine rooms with private entrances offer a vast variety of uses. Huge, wonderful family room and separate bedroom suite. Extremely well constructed in impeccable condition. View glorious sunsets from the spacious patio and decks. Marvelous gardens with a variety of large, level green "rooms" perfect for play and entertaining. The lot is 124,124 square feet providing room to build another home.



3090 Buena Vista Way Open 2-5



BERKELEY \$410,000
2/1 - Charming Berkeley Bungalow. Beautiful hardwood floors, built-ins, formal dining room and a garage. More info at www.kateandmark.com.
1627 Russell Street Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$424,000
2+1/2 - Contractors Alert! 2 kitchens. Great yard. Needs lots of work. Great floorplan offers home + income with 3 separate entrances
1429 Channing Street Open 2-5



PINOLE - NEW LISTING! \$459,000
4/2 - Peaceful serenity in the Pinole Valley. Family room, stone fireplace. Large patio and level lawn area.
2661 Tamaipais Drive Open 2-4



HERCULES - NEW LISTING! \$549,000
4/3.5 - 2.5 years young! Over 2,800 square feet. Family room, loft and "reading room". Beautiful sunset views.
112 Kensington Circle Open 2-5

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Just how earnest is earnest money? It depends

Q. I read an article on your advice about earnest money. I recently saw a house I intended to purchase and so I deposited \$2,000 as earnest money.

However, the transaction did not materialize because the seller's house had been foreclosed at the time she was attempting to sell it.

In short, she lost the house. The real estate company, which acted as the trustee, is delaying my refund of the earnest money. They are arguing that the seller

must first sign a release. The seller didn't fulfill her part of the transaction to sell the house at no fault of mine, and according to them, they can't gain access to her to sign it.

Is it not right under the law to refund my money to me?

— S. Appiah

A. Your remedy to the situation



TOM HAMILTON
Real Estate O&A

I can only speculate that you have a right for a refund.

The real estate company may be following the contract's provi-

sions. My advice is that you need to contact an attorney to see what options are available to you.

Normally, failure to perform according to the terms of the contract would allow a full refund (which may be split between you and your real estate broker if you have one), but the terms of the contract may have other limiting provisions.

Tom Hamilton, Ph.D., is associate professor at the Shenheon Center for Real Estate Education

at the University of St. Minneapolis. E-mail: thw@stomn.com. Please include name and state.

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Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

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<div>Alameda</div> <div><div><div><div><div><div>\$225,500</div><div>965 Shorepoint Ct. #114</div><div>1BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$399,000</div><div>3208 Encinal</div><div>1BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$410,500</div><div>750 Eagle Ave</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$434,500</div><div>1040 Jost Ln</div><div>2BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$465,000</div><div>28 Invincible Ct</div><div>2BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$479,000</div><div>353 Centre Ct</div><div>2Bd/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2:30-4:30</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$489,500</div><div>3416 Brithorn</div><div>3Bd/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$499,000</div><div>1 Invincible Ct</div><div>2BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$505,000</div><div>538 Lincoln Avenue</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Wells & Bennett Realtors</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$530,000</div><div>2500 San Jose</div><div>2Bd/1.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$539,000</div><div>1104 Park St.</div><div>3Bd/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$579,000</div><div>219 Bannister</div><div>3Bd/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$599,500</div><div>311 Laguna Vista</div><div>2+BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$609,000</div><div>35 Britt Ct</div><div>3Bd/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$635,000</div><div>1322 Burbank St.</div><div>2Bd/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$650,000</div><div>2047 Eagle Ave</div><div>4BD/4BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 12-5</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$675,000</div><div>305 Ratto Road</div><div>3Bd/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$719,000</div><div>940 Versailles Ave</div><div>2 units</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Bayside Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$969,000</div><div>3110 Bayo Vista Av</div><div>4Bd/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div></div></div></div><div><div>Albany</div><div><div><div>\$449,000</div><div>1049 Pomona Ave</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Berkeley Hills Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$485,000</div><div>1205 Brighton</div><div>3BD/1.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$515,000</div><div>931 Pomona Ave</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-5</div><div>Millstein And Associates</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$538,888</div><div>624 Talbot Ave.</div><div>3+BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Berkeley Hills Realty</div></div></div></div><div><div>Berkeley</div><div><div><div>\$335,000</div><div>1214 Parker St</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$335,000</div><div>1214 Parker St</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$410,000</div><div>1627 Russell St</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Red Oak Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$410,000</div><div>2801 Park St.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>ReMax In Motion</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$424,000</div><div>1429 Channing Way</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Red Oak Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$450,000</div><div>386 Vermont Ave.</div><div>2+BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$485,000</div><div>1822 Berkeley Wy Unit 2</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Jeans Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$495,000</div><div>885 Colusa Avenue</div><div>1+BD/1.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC RE</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$545,000</div><div>1336 Carrison</div><div>2 houses, 1 lot</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$550,000</div><div>2140 California St</div><div>Duplex</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Marvin Gardens</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$575,000</div><div>1638 Bancroft Way</div><div>4BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Keller Williams Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$705,000</div><div>1358 Campus</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$775,000</div><div>1874 San Juan</div><div>3+BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC RE</div></div></div></div><div><div>Berkeley</div><div><div><div>\$835,000</div><div>70 Hazel Rd.</div><div>2BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$849,900</div><div>989 Creston Rd.</div><div>4+BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Security Pacific</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$895,000</div><div>3025 Shattuck Ave</div><div>Open Sat 2-4</div></div><div><div>Help-U-Sell Berkeley Properties</div><div>Jerri Curry</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,300,000</div><div>9 Ajax Place</div><div>3+BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Millstein & Associates</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$2,200,000</div><div>3090 Buena Vista Way</div><div>4BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Red Oak Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$2,200,000</div><div>6807 Buckingham Blvd.</div><div>5BD/4+BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$3,150,000</div><div>166 Tunnel Rd.</div><div>6BD/4BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,650,000</div><div>1705 La Loma Avenue</div><div>4BD/4BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC RE</div></div></div></div><div><div>El Cerrito</div><div><div><div>\$398,000</div><div>850 Liberty St</div><div>2BD 1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Berkeley Hills Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$449,000</div><div>720 Albemarle St</div><div>5BD/2+BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Marvin Gardens</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$480,000</div><div>6818 Snowdon Ave</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker Bartels</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$699,000</div><div>2610 Francisco Way</div><div>3BD/2+BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>SAT/SUN 1:30-4:30</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$722,500</div><div>5424 Hillside Ave</div><div>4BD/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>By Owner</div></div></div></div><div><div>El Sobrante</div><div><div><div>\$149,000</div><div>5290 San Pablo Dam Rd #A18</div><div>1BD</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Marvin Gardens</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$595,000</div><div>3517 McSherry Way</div><div>3BD/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Harbor Bay Realty</div></div></div></div><div><div>Emeryville</div><div><div><div>\$380,000</div><div>5 Commodore Dr B-301</div><div>2BD/1.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1:30-4:30</div><div>Re/Max East Bay Hills</div></div></div></div><div><div>Hayward</div><div><div><div>\$599,950</div><div>2518 Oakes Dr</div><div>4BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$549,000</div><div>112 Kensington Circle</div><div>4BD/3.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Red Oak Realty</div></div></div></div><div><div>Kensington</div><div><div><div>\$559,000</div><div>295 Colgate Ave</div><div>3BD/1.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1:30-4</div><div>Red Oak Realty</div></div></div></div><div><div>Lafayette</div><div><div><div>\$2,100,000</div><div>1490 Rancho View Dr.</div><div>5BD/5.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div></div><div><div>Livermore</div><div><div><div>\$538,000</div><div>1071 Algonquin Ave</div><div>4BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Alameda Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$2,495,000</div><div>5336 Stonehurst Dr.</div><div>5BD/4BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div></div><div><div>Oakland</div><div><div><div>\$217,000</div><div>2901 MacArthur Blvd. #111</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$219,000</div><div>10 Moss Ave.</div><div>1BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-4:30</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$223,000</div><div>407 Orange #410</div><div>1BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$235,000</div><div>1681 78th Ave</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$249,000</div><div>2145 E. 19th St</div><div>1BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$260,000</div><div>303 Adams #307</div><div>1BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$260,000</div><div>325 Vernon #305</div><div>1BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$279,500</div><div>3214 60th Ave</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>The Homes-Link Team</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$299,000</div><div>3531 Davis St</div><div>1+BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Better Homes Realty</div></div></div></div><div><div>Oakland</div><div><div><div>\$317,500</div><div>5467 Wadean Pl</div><div>2+BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Marvin Gardens</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$329,000</div><div>3015 Myrtle Street</div><div>1BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$332,000</div><div>4501 West Street</div><div>3+BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$338,000</div><div>3245 Hyde St</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$339,000</div><div>2220 Sonoma Way</div><div>3+BD/1.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$354,950</div><div>7130 Outlook</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Wells & Bennett Realtors</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$359,000</div><div>2419 Potter St</div><div>2+BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Red Oak Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$359,000</div><div>3015 Myrtle St #6</div><div>2BD/1.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1:30-4:30</div><div>Re/Max East Bay Hills</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$365,000</div><div>6127 Baker St</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$369,900</div><div>1382 E 36th Street</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$379,000</div><div>7700 Sterling Dr</div><div>2+BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Better Homes Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$380,000</div><div>2558 55th Ave.</div><div>4BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$389,000</div><div>3634 California St.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1:30-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$399,000</div><div>3686 Madrone</div><div>2BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$399,000</div><div>255 3rd #202</div><div>1BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$399,000</div><div>260 Caldecott Ln. #113</div><div>2BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$399,950</div><div>3706 Nevil St.</div><div>2+BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$420,000</div><div>1025 90th Ave</div><div>5+BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$429,000</div><div>6126 Buena Ventura Ave</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Better Homes Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$439,000</div><div>2465 Alida St.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$440,000</div><div>801 Alleen St.</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>The Homes-Link Team</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$449,000</div><div>4740 Fair Ave.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$450,000</div><div>5214 Hillen Dr.</div><div>3BD/1.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Valva Realty Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$459,000</div><div>4501 Moraga</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Thornwall Properties</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$489,000</div><div>2743 26th Ave.</div><div>5BD/4BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-4:30</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$489,900</div><div>3175 Kingsland Ave</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$500,000</div><div>619 22nd St</div><div>--/--</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$510,000</div><div>5407 Bryant Ave.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$519,000</div><div>1455 Wellington St.</div><div>2+BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$520,000</div><div>3833 Enos Ave.</div><div>3BD/1.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Wells & Bennett Realtors</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$525,000</div><div>4031 Waterhouse Rd.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$525,000</div><div>637-639 Alleen St</div><div>6BD/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$529,000</div><div>3517 Victor</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 1-4:30</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$529,000</div><div>388 Fairmont Ave.</div><div>3BD/1.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1:30-5</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$535,000</div><div>737 2nd Street</div><div>6D/BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$544,000</div><div>2312 Tiffin Rd.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$549,000</div><div>3923 Elston Ave.</div><div>2+BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Wells & Bennett Realtors</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$549,000</div><div>6608 Pinehaven Rd.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div></div><div><div>Oakland</div><div><div><div>\$552,000</div><div>4633 Ceranium</div><div>3BD/1.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Wells & Bennett Realtors</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$559,000</div><div>6700 Pinehaven</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$569,000</div><div>1056 Norwood Ave.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$595,000</div><div>373 4th St. #24</div><div>1BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Wells & Bennett Realtors</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$595,000</div><div>4491 Montgomery St</div><div>2BD/2+BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Better Homes Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$599,000</div><div>3725-27 Coolidge Ave.</div><div>5BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$615,000</div><div>6150 Gouldin Rd</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Better Homes Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$619,000</div><div>4921 Scotia Ave</div><div>4BD/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$629,000</div><div>6658 Charing Cross Rd.</div><div>3+BD/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$639,000</div><div>2916 Fillmore St.</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat & Sun 2-4</div><div>Kane & Associates</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$649,950</div><div>7253 Sayre Dr</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Better Homes Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$650,000</div><div>546 Kenmore Ave.</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sat 10-2</div><div>Realty Executives</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$675,000</div><div>4722 Fair Ave</div><div>5BD/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Gallagher & Lindsey</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$699,000</div><div>174 Santa Clara Ave</div><div>5BD/2+BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Carol A. Warren Company</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$699,000</div><div>2333 Leimert Blvd.</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC RE</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$699,000</div><div>6941 Colton Blvd</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$699,000</div><div>6 Greenbank</div><div>2BD/1BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Better Homes Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$729,000</div><div>6216 Ascot Dr</div><div>2+BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Better Homes Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$739,000</div><div>6632 Ascot Dr.</div><div>3BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$749,000</div><div>6229 Viewcrest</div><div>3+BD/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC RE</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$749,000</div><div>6659 Girvin Dr.</div><div>4BD/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$749,900</div><div>5815 Amy Drive</div><div>3 BD/2 BA</div></div><div><div>Open 1-4</div><div>Better Homes Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$799,000</div><div>5829 Mc Andrew Dr.</div><div>2+BD/2+BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-5</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$849,000</div><div>7131 Snake Rd.</div><div>3BD/2BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$865,000</div><div>6657 Chelton</div><div>3+BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$875,000</div><div>1026-1030 Hollywood Ave</div><div>--/--</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Better Homes Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$875,000</div><div>6833 Moore Dr.</div><div>3BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Wells & Bennett Realtors</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$945,000</div><div>4807 Calderwood Ct.</div><div>4+BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$975,000</div><div>5255 Miles Ave</div><div>4BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Better Homes Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$985,000</div><div>5405 Belgrave Place</div><div>4+BD/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC RE</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$995,000</div><div>16 Humphrey Pl.</div><div>3+BD/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$999,000</div><div>1028 Keeler Ave.</div><div>4BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open 2-5</div><div>Alain Pinel Realtors</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,050,000</div><div>818 Northvale Rd.</div><div>5+BD/4BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,150,000</div><div>5575 Hilltop Crescent</div><div>4+BD/3+BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC RE</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,195,000</div><div>1129 Clarendon Crescent</div><div>4BD/3.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,295,000</div><div>3237 Burdek</div><div>4+BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC RE</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,295,000</div><div>32 Downey Place</div><div>4+BD/3BA</div></div><div><div>Open 2-5</div><div>Alain Pinel Realtors</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,299,000</div><div>6151 Swainland Rd.</div><div>3BD/2.5BA</div></div><div><div>Open 2-5</div><div>Alain Pinel Realtors</div></div></div></div><div><div>Oakland</div><div><div><div>\$1,299,999</div><div>13506 Campus Dr.</div><div>1801 Melvin Road</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>C21 Heritage Real Estate</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,350,000</div><div>1801 Melvin Road</div><div>Oakmore</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC RE</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,375,000</div><div>6363 Contra Costa</div><div>Sat. & Sun. 2-4:30</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Pacific Union GMAC RE</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,450,000</div><div>16032 Broadway Terrace</div><div>Mountain</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,450,000</div><div>6839 Elverton Drive</div><div>Mountain</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Wells & Bennett Realtors</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,549,000</div><div>6151 Acacia Ave</div><div>Claremont Pines</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$2,495,000</div><div>30 Skyway Ln.</div><div>Hillcrest Estates</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$3,000,000</div><div>42 Starview Dr.</div><div>Open 12-2pm</div></div><div><div>Open 12-2pm</div><div>Fair Rent</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$400,000+</div><div>426 27th St.</div><div>Lofts</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div></div><div><div>Orinda</div><div><div><div>\$839,000</div><div>202 The Knoll</div><div>Mountain</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 1-4</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div></div><div><div>Piedmont</div><div><div><div>\$729,000</div><div>2 Cavendish Lane</div><div>Mountain</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>Northbrae Properties</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$829,000</div><div>1023 Oakland Ave</div><div>Mountain</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Prudential CA Realty</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$929,000</div><div>55 Fairview Ave</div><div>Mountain</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-4:30</div><div>The Grubb Co.</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,295,000</div><div>52 Sharon Ave.</div><div>Mountain</div></div><div><div>Open Sun 2-5</div><div>Coldwell Banker</div></div></div><div><div><div>\$1,995,000</div><div>71 Dudley Ave</div></div></div></div></div></div>
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710 Bloom St - \$607,000
 1183 Breckenridge - \$445,500
 16896 Clinton Av - \$390,000
 511 Crespi Pl - \$429,000
 1215 Dartmouth Av - \$406,000
 926 Douglas Dr - \$330,000
 1306 Gardner Bl - \$380,000
 15063 Hesperian 41 - \$265,000
 2338 Jamaica Wy - \$375,000
 1276 Margery Av - \$413,000
 2712 Marineview Dr - \$710,000
 1885 Maubert Ct - \$735,000
 3745 Monterey Bl - \$424,000
 175 Napoleon Ct - \$460,000
 630 Pershing Dr - \$415,000
 14768 Saturn Dr - \$325,000
 13670 School St - \$420,000
 14756 Wyman Av - \$399,000

SAN LORENZO

1866 Bandoni - \$355,000
 487 Crespi Pl - \$431,000
 517 Crespi Pl - \$419,000
 612 Elgin St - \$415,000
 16366 Emery Ct - \$410,000
 354 Hacienda Av - \$440,000

See SALES, Page B18

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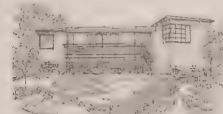
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Montclair - Real Estate and Financial Consultant, Todd Enslay of Montclair Better Homes, in conjunction with Dianne Crosby of La Salle Mortgage, are offering this free, unique seminar to home sellers. Meet local industry professionals who know the Oakland Hills market. Here are just a few of the strategies we'll discuss for increasing the value of your property and securing financing for your next home purchase:

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- Appearance and emotional impact is underestimated
- Identify financially qualified buyers
- Options for financing your next home, prior to sale

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 Montclair Better Homes Office
 1986 Mountain Blvd. in Montclair

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Sales

FROM PAGE B17

690 Via Alamo - \$352,000
16121 Via Descanso - \$380,000
15899 Via Pinale - \$285,000
16132 Via Primero - \$446,000
1837 Via Rancho - \$480,000
17621 Wickman Pl - \$293,000

By the numbers

ALAMITO

TOTAL SALES: 11
LOWEST PRICE: \$285,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$610,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$485,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$474,091

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$500,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$525,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$512,500

BERKLEY

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST PRICE: \$271,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,325,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$610,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$690,667

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$460,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$850,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$580,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$616,250

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$198,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$375,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$235,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$269,333

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST PRICE: \$181,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$569,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$300,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$343,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 73
LOWEST PRICE: \$119,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,400,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$343,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$405,356

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MILL CREEK

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$920,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 33
LOWEST PRICE: \$189,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$659,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$325,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$356,621

SAN CLAY

TOTAL SALES: 19
LOWEST PRICE: \$265,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$735,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$415,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$448,605

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 12
LOWEST PRICE: \$285,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$480,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$415,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$392,167

This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CallResource@aol.com. Call 209-365-6663.

Here's a heads-up on installing ceiling drywall

Take the strain out of positioning sheetrock by renting lift

BY BILL AND KEVIN BURNETT
HUMAN.COM

Q: We are putting up gypsum board for a ceiling in a storage shed that we are refurbishing. My husband uses his head along with his arms to hold up the board while he screws the sheet onto the ceiling. I try to help by holding up the board and keeping it in position. I suggested that he make a wooden T-brace to hold up the board.

I am wondering if the weight of the board on the top of his head could cause some harm by breaking a blood vessel or other? He also cut the board in half so we could maneuver it more easily so he is working with half sheets.

A: We always recommend that you use your head when doing any kind of construction project. But what we mean by that is to think the project through and plan it before you start. We don't mean using your head as a tool. Not that we haven't done it.

Seriously, we don't think there

is much danger of your husband breaking a blood vessel in his head while hanging Sheetrock. But we do know a better way to do it.

Over the years, we've installed and finished hundreds of sheets of drywall. We've muscled it in place more times than we'd care to remember. We've used our heads to hold it in place. We've also used a "T" made of 2-by-4s. But the best thing we've found to make hanging drywall on a ceiling tolerable (it's never easy) for the nonpro is a drywall lift.

A drywall lift is a mechanical table that can be adjusted from a vertical to a horizontal position and then cranked to the ceiling.

With the table in the vertical position, place a piece of drywall on the lift. Lifts are equipped with stops that look like hooks on the bottom so a sheet of drywall can be secured on the table when it is vertical. Pivot the table to the horizontal position and crank the sheet to the ceiling.

Lifts are equipped with wheels so that the sheet can be maneuvered into position easily. The stops are spring-loaded so as they press against a sheet installed on the ceiling they retract. In this way you can fine-tune the positioning.

Assuming your ceiling is

We always recommend that you use your head when doing any kind of construction project. But what we mean by that is to think the project through and plan it before you start. We don't mean using your head as a tool. Not that we haven't done it.

square, getting that first sheet in the right place will save you a lot of cutting and fitting on later sheets

Drywall lifts are available at many tool rental stores. They should cost \$35 to \$40 per day. They're worth every penny.

Unfortunately, we didn't discover this handy device until we'd hung 150 pieces of ceiling Sheetrock in Kevin's house in Idaho. The good news is that neither of us broke a blood vessel (or a bone) in our head. Although

there are times that Heidi, questions that

Tip of the week: rather than nails when drywall. While nails are over time they tend to cause small lumps in the finished wall. Also, if you have an electric drill, especially hanging drywall, is a must.

Go to www.human.com for more home improvement tips.

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Introducing... Richard Benner

Richard Benner brings a strong educational and professional experience to the team. Before entering real estate, he received his doctorate from Stanford University and served as an Academic Administrator both at UCSF and Berkeley. Drawing on his training and organizational studies, he moved into consulting work. In the last 10 years, his interest in the architecture and variety of wonderful homes available in the East Bay led to his involvement in real estate. The focus, integrity and knowledge he brings from his academic experience, he applies to serving people concerned with the complex process of buying or selling their homes.

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- Do you need more information on how to obtain a Real Estate license?
- Do you want details on Keller Williams vs. other Real Estate Compensation Benefits and Compensation Plans?
- Would you like more information about Real Estate Training?

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SPORTS

• Friday, March 12, 2004 •

Section C

Decision to cut sports leaves athletes in limbo

Curtis Pashelka
STAFF WRITER
EL CERRITO — Erik Howard has a good chance of playing football at the NCAA Division I level.

Howard, 5-foot-5, 330-pound line-backer at El Cerrito High School, received letters of interest from a number of schools, including Washington, Stanford, UCLA and Nebraska.

Howard doesn't know where he'll be playing high school football next year.

Howard, like a number of student-athletes, has been in limbo following Monday's decision by the West Contra Costa Athletic League to eliminate high school athletics. The district also voted to close

"I couldn't believe it when they told us."

— El Cerrito junior Erik Howard

all libraries and lay off 10 percent of its employees as part of \$16.5 million in budget cuts. The decision affects Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League schools De Anza, El Cerrito, Hercules, Pinole Valley and Richmond and Bay Shore Athletic League school Kennedy.

Students on Tuesday throughout the district voiced their displeasure about the district's decision. At Pinole Valley, about 300 students attended an open-mike gathering at the football field during lunch break, and at

De Anza, students protested in front of the school most of the morning.

Student-athletes such as Howard are hoping their schools can raise enough money through private funding to keep sports at their schools afloat. Failing that, Howard may be one of many who will wear different colors in the fall.

"I'll probably have to transfer to another school and hope for the best," said Howard, who may

See SCHOOLS, Page 2

Commissioner hopes league can be saved

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER

IS THE Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League about to become extinct? On Monday, the West Contra Costa school board approved \$16.5 million in cuts, which included the elimination of all sports programs. Five of the district's high schools are in the ACCAL: De Anza, El Cerrito, Hercules, Pinole Valley and Richmond. The ACCAL has eight total schools, with Alameda, Berkeley and Encinal rounding it out.

"I think it's very unfortu-

ACCAL NOTEBOOK

nate," said ACCAL commissioner Bill Jones about the cuts. "I think the high school experience involves academics as well as extracurricular activities, in which sports is one. I am disappointed for the kids."

Jones said Tuesday that the league is in a wait-and-see mode currently, "but the wait-and-see period won't be months."

"There is still a little bit of time before the ACCAL needs

to make a determination whether it exists or not," Jones said. "There will be a meeting, possibly as early as next week, with the ACCAL Board of Managers. Hopefully West County can give us an update if they are going to be funding sports in a definite way."

"When you are talking about keeping the ACCAL intact, I think there's going to have to be a deadline set by the league by which West County can tell us whether they will play in the

See ACCAL, Page 2

NOTEBOOK

Wright happy
have
more back

Orlando Molina
STAFF WRITER
WITH THE return of senior Michael Moore to the lineup, John Swett, a tennis coach, said Rizarri can't guarantee a place finish in the Bay Shore Athletic League.

Swett is certain, the more he has with him, the better he'll be. "I missed him," Swett said after having to go through the 2003 season without Moore to injury. "If I had Moore, we would have been better off."

Swett, who will anchor the singles lineup at the end of the season, is looking around to return to the team after tearing the ligament in his left knee in a diving accident in February.

When Rizarri said he's going to get back on the court, Swett was proven by his attendance for

Adrians finished in second behind Piedmont last year. And although Rizarri, a catcher, is a senior because of his team's inexperience, he said the Bay Shore Athletic League should see a second place finish for second place. Salesian and St. Joseph.

Swett's more reason to have Moore back is the No. 3 singles hole. Swett, who is the No. 1 doubles player, finds himself in a tight spot.

TO TAKE THE FIELD: Swett's ankle of John Swett, a player Simone Soria is a well said her dad and coach Greg Soria.

Swett, a shortstop, injured late in the girls basketball game and sat out the final games. Her doctor originally diagnosed the injury a ligament, but her condition was later found to be a ligament strain.

Swett missed the first two games of softball practice, but Swett has improved to the point where she can start at short for the upcoming season, Greg Soria said. Swett, who still lacks her speed at short and should be able to play at third base and shortstop fully returns, Swett said.

ON A JET PLANE: Swett's boys volleyball schedule has been put off until after the state tournament until five days later, Swett said.

Swett, who is performing well, said Panthers' coach Carmine Vasquez.

Swett's work comes as part of the district's enrichment program, which sends students to either El Salvador or to volunteer at religious-based organizations such as church or classroom, said Vasquez.

Swett's boys volleyball schedule has been put off until after the state tournament until five days later, Swett said.

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PREP BASKETBALL



EL CERRITO'S Melissa Stallworth goes up for a shot as Raquel Salinas (31) defends in the NCS title game. Moreau Catholic won 41-39.

El Cerrito girls ousted from NorCals

■ After suffering a close loss in the NCS final, the Gauchos are routed by powerful St. Mary's-Stockton in CIF tourney

STAFF REPORT

Roberts scored 14 points and Jacki Gemelos added 13 as St. Mary's-Stockton defeated El Cerrito 77-43 Tuesday night in Stockton in the first round of the CIF Northern California Division III Tournament.

Myleka Emerson led the Gau-

chos (22-9) with eight points, while Melissa Stallworth and Marqueta Green each had seven.

The Rams (29-4) are ranked fourth overall in the state.

Moreau Catholic 41, El Cerrito 39: First the El Cerrito girls basketball team saw a hard-earned seven-point lead disappear in the fourth quarter.

Then the No. 2-seeded Gauchos could only watch as Moreau Catholic's Alisha Flaaten made two of four free throws, two coming on a technical foul, with 2.1 seconds on the clock to clinch a victory in the championship game of the North Coast Section

Division III playoffs at Albany High School on Saturday.

This was the second NCS title for No. 4 Moreau Catholic (25-4), its other title coming in 1996.

"I thought it was over," said Mariners coach Jack Kennedy, whose team lost to Alacanes 53-37 in last year's championship game. "Then we just started hitting our shots — hitting our shots when we needed them the most."

"(Losing) is always hard," El Cerrito coach Ron Williams said. "But I don't think you can ever say you're in control. We didn't take care of the ball."

"I'm mad we lost, but I'm glad

we made it this far," Gauchos guard Marqueta Green said.

Both teams were slow out of the blocks. The first bucket was a 3-pointer by El Cerrito's Chazny Morris 1:35 into the game. El Cerrito held the lead until the third period, but couldn't pull away.

"They were a little sluggish to start," Williams said. "Then they kind of got loose. But they never got in the groove."

Moreau Catholic took its first lead when Michelle Garcia snapped a 22-22 tie by making a

See EL CERRITO, Page 2

Panthers respond to tongue-lashing

STAFF REPORT

Cristina Thomas scored 14 of St. Mary's 28 points in the third quarter as the Panthers blew out host Wheatland 78-39 on Tuesday in the opening round of the CIF Northern California Division IV Tournament.

The Panthers (23-8) led just 33-29 at halftime before usually reserved co-coach Don Lawson delivered a message in the locker room.

"I went in and yelled at them," Lawson said. "I'm usually not the yellor, so when I came in and yelled, it kind of got their attention that this is more serious than

they thought."

St. Mary's responded by outscoring Wheatland (25-4) 28-5 in the third quarter.

"Cristina really responded," Lawson said.

Piedmont 55, St. Mary's 37: Some local high school girls basketball coaches — Piedmont's Bryan Gardere and Sean Dulan of St. Mary's among them — insist that Courtney Paris is the nation's best prep player.

True, most of us here have not seen top high school talent from other areas. But few who were at the Arena on Saturday would argue with the above assessment.

Paris was everything as advertised, as she scored 29 of Piedmont's points in a 55-37 win over St. Mary's for the North Coast Section Division IV title at the Arena in Oakland.

"She's big-time," Gardere said of Paris. "She comes up big and is a very smart basketball player. She makes adjustments at halftime that college players wouldn't make."

Paris, a 6-foot-4 junior center, was a monster in the paint, blocking shots and stealing passes underneath the basket. Try as they might, the Panthers (22-8) never could fully contain

Paris.

"You try to defense Courtney Paris by attacking her," Dulan said. "You can't let her stand on the block, you've got to make her move her feet."

Piedmont and St. Mary's, rivals in the Bay Shore Athletic League, were most familiar to each other, having met three times previously. Piedmont (29-2) had won all three of those contests, but St. Mary's did all it could to prevent a fourth loss to the Highlanders this season.

Neither team started fast, as

See ST. MARY'S, Page 2

Wright, Keys lead Berkeley

■ They combine for 31 points as the Yellow Jackets beat Castlemont in a NorCal opener

STAFF REPORT

Berkeley High School guard Danesha Wright scored 16 points in the first half on her way to a game-high 24 as she led the Yellow Jackets to a 66-52 victory over visiting Castlemont in the first round of the CIF Northern California Division I Tournament on Tuesday night in Berkeley.

The first quarter gave every indication that the game was going to be tight as Castlemont (19-10) led 18-17. Berkeley then turned up the heat, ending the first half on a 16-2 run for a 39-25 lead.

The Yellow Jackets (23-9) used a pressure defense throughout as it tried to disrupt the Knights' offensive rhythm.

"We heard coming into the game that they didn't have too many ball-handlers and that their best games have come when they were able to get the ball down low," Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura said. "We tried to put some pressure on them so we could use our quickness as an advantage."

Complementing Wright's performance was Andrea Keys' 15-point, six-rebound performance. With Wright shooting from the outside and Keys pounding inside, Castlemont was never able to figure out the Yellow Jackets' offense.

Berkeley 61, Deer Valley 39: Berkeley (20-8) didn't need more motivation. Keeping its string of consecutive North Coast Section Division I titles intact was sufficient enough.

But having Saturday's NCS Division I championship game be the lead-in of the day's six-game slate at the Arena in Oakland sure lit a fire under the Yellow Jackets. And, boy, did Deer Valley get burned.

Rather than schedule the game as the marquee girls matchup, the teams were on the court bright and early for a 10 a.m. tipoff. Neither squad was thrilled to play in front of such a sparse crowd, but No. 2 seed Berkeley turned that anger into determination and rolled to an easy win over the top-seeded Wolverines.

"I wanted to make a statement," Berkeley coach Nakamura said. "We came in with

See BERKELEY, Page 2



SHANTRELL SNEED and St. Mary's couldn't stop Courtney Paris, right, and Piedmont at NCS.

Albany's Pressnall falls short at state

By Orlando Molina
STAFF WRITER

BAKERSFIELD — When Albany High School wrestler Steven Pressnall was a freshman, he equated teammates who made it past North Coast Section competition to being "God-like."

But at the California Interscholastic Federation State Championships at the Centennial Garden Convention Center last Friday, the senior found out that those divine powers were not evenly distributed after posting a 1-2 record and being eliminated from the tournament.

"Everybody is very human here," said Pressnall, who wrestled at 137 pounds. "I came out and I wrestled hard. I can't be satisfied with how I did. I can't say I failed, but I'm not satisfied."

Pressnall closed out his day with a 5-3 loss in the first consolation round to Urbano Gutierrez of Madera.

With the score tied 2-2 after two rounds, Gutierrez took the lead on an escape then pulled away with a takedown for a 5-2 lead. Pressnall pulled off a late

PREP WRESTLING

escape, but it wasn't enough and his bid for a medal was over.

"He didn't shoot," Albany coach Kermit Bankson said. "You have to go after somebody. He was countering and when you counter, you're defensive."

Pressnall disagreed, saying, "I thought I was more aggressive than normal."

Pressnall began his day on a rough note, losing his first match in a tight contest. Taking on Miguel Garcia of Alisal-Salinas, the two grinded their way through two rounds before Garcia found an escape to open the third with a 1-0 lead. It stayed that way until the final 36 seconds when Pressnall came up with an escape and Garcia countered with a takedown for a 3-2 final.

But like his performance at the NCS Championships the previous weekend, Pressnall recovered in his out-of-state match of the consolation round against Sal Sanchez of Wasco.

It didn't look good for Pressnall in the first 30 seconds as he was quickly down 2-0. An escape at the end of the first round and one to start the second tied things at 2-2.

But Pressnall wasn't out of trouble, as he gave up three unanswered points to trail 5-2 midway through the third round. Throughout most of the post-season, Pressnall managed to pull out the tying or go-ahead points in the final seconds, and this was no different. With 1:17 left in the third, Pressnall got an escape and takedown to knot the match and force overtime.

After a scoreless overtime period, it came down to sudden death. Pressnall took the top position and came close to giving up an escape had he not hung on to Sanchez's leg for dear life.

Pressnall eventually rode out his opponent to win by criteria and stay alive in the tournament.

"He's had five overtime wins in the year, some double overtime. Every match is a tough match here," Bankson said.

Kyle Griffin, a former Albany

wrestler who transferred to Clovis East for his senior year, competed at 173 pounds. The former Cougar was off to a hot start, winning his first two matches, a 12-1 victory over Jared Muncher of Will C Wood-Vacaville in the first round and a 6-5 win over Jake Baldwin of Foothill-Palo Cedro. His title run came to an end following a 5-4 loss in the quarterfinals to Michael Drake of Elk Grove.

Griffin said the reason for his for transferring from Albany was due mainly to grades and the high standards Clovis East puts on athletics.

"My grades started getting bad and I needed a new environment," Griffin said. "(Clovis East) is a good school and it's more focused on athletics."

Griffin added that when he left Albany, the split was, for the most part, amicable. But the topic is still a sensitive issue judging from Bankson's tone. When approached with the subject he said, "I don't want to talk about that."



Rowing for dollars

THE BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL boys crew team had a fund-raising event in early February at Civic Park in Berkeley. Rowers rowed 4,000 meters on erg machines to raise money for the upcoming season, which includes a move to the Jack London Aquatic Center on the Oakland Estuary for practice purposes. Rowers huffing and puffing are, from left, novice rower Broetz, Peter Petracca, Harris Bernstein, with varsity rowers Mog and Luke Vavasour in the background. The event cost \$20,000, about a third of the team's operating budget.

El Cerrito

FROM PAGE 1

pair of free throws with 6:08 to go in the third.

The game went back and forth throughout the third quarter, before the Mariners closed with a three-point play by Flaaten, who had a game-high 15 points, to take a 30-27 lead heading to the fourth period.

Then El Cerrito found a gear. Getting points by four players, the Gauchos surged into a 37-30 lead with 5:25 to go.

"It worked for a little while," said Green, whose bucket with 6:03 on the clock gave her team

a 32-30 edge.

Moreau Catholic played the game with a 4-1 lead. Mariners tied it at 27-27. Klonowski passed to Kanas, who scored with

The final minute was loose balls, missed shots and, finally, free throws.

With 2:1 seconds left, Flaaten was fouled. A technical foul was called. Gauchos player threw

It added up to three free throws. Flaaten missed two free throws, but the latter two.

Times staff writer Bill contributed to this report.

St. Mary's

FROM PAGE 1

Paris scored the game's first points on a basket with 5:40 left in the first quarter. St. Mary's, however, stayed competitive as the lead switched back and forth for much of the first quarter. When Sonjha Beam scored a buzzer-beating layup, the Panthers had an 11-7 lead.

For the most part, the teams continued to go back and forth until the Highlanders went up to stay late in the second quarter. When Katie Salyer hit a 3-pointer, the Highlanders had a 21-17 lead with 1:20 to go in the half, their largest spread to that point.

St. Mary's had done most everything it could to contain Paris underneath the basket, but Salyer's 3-pointer seemed to open things up for the Highlanders.

"I said to Katie that they had certain players who were going to double Courtney," Gardere said. "I told her to be ready, and she was ready."

St. Mary's 62, Healdsburg 54. Shantrell Sneed and Van Horn shot a combined 11-14 from the free-throw line in the quarter, as the third-seeded Panthers (22-7) never trailed in the No. 2-seeded in (29-1) their first loss in a Division II game on March 4.

Sneed, who scored high 25 points, was 6-11 from the line in the fourth. Frapp, who finished with 10 points, was 5-10.

St. Mary's was tied Healdsburg 15-15 at the quarter but outscored the Panthers 17-8 in the second quarter. Healdsburg cut St. Mary's 36-30 in the third quarter.

Courtney Dunn had 13 rebounds for Healdsburg, while Van Horn's 22 points

Staff writers Mike McGowan and Jennifer Starks contributed to this roundup.

Schools

FROM PAGE 1

go to Berkeley High or an Oakland school. "I couldn't believe it when they told us."

North Coast Section transfer rules state that athletes who change schools without changing residences are ineligible. Athletes can, however, request a waiver if a school discontinues a sport in which he or she participated.

That's what a number of athletes the Contra Costa Times talked to planned on doing if it meant continuing their prep careers. But some were optimistic that they would be able to stay at their present schools and still participate in athletics.

Members of the Pinole Valley girls basketball team said their program is self-sufficient. Like other teams, the players raise money by operating the snack bar at football games. At El Cerrito, players hold car washes and sell candy.

"They say we pay for our own programs, so they don't really think that they're going to take sports away from us," said Pinole Valley sophomore Jasmine Smith, who averaged close to nine points per game, second-highest on the team.

But El Cerrito principal Vincent Rhea said it's important to keep every school within the district on an even playing field.

"It's important to have parity within the district," Rhea said. "El Cerrito can't have all of the

sports simply because our community is willing to set up booster clubs and foundations. We have to ensure that Richmond, Kennedy and De Anza are able to operate on the same level."

A number of students said athletics provides discipline and the motivation to keep their academics in order.

"If we don't have sports, then what's going to happen?" said Richmond sophomore Fred Morris, a wide receiver and defensive back for the football team, who said he would transfer if he had to. "(A decision like this) affects our education. Playing sports pushes me because I know I have to have good grades to stay on the team. Sports motivates me stay at school and do the things

I'm supposed to be doing."

Junior Darrell Honaker, a two-sport star at Pinole Valley, was busy taking batting practice with the Spartans baseball team Tuesday afternoon. A first-team All-ACCAL selection at defensive line, Honaker was looking forward to playing football in the fall along with fellow returnees Lane Yoshida, Brenton Thompson and John Bryant.

Now, like so many of his classmates and counterparts, his athletic future remains up in the air.

"I would go to another school if I had to, somewhere close, that could help me get to (a Division I college school)," Honaker said. "There's nothing I can really do right now. Hopefully I don't have to go to another school. I really want to stay here."

ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

ACCAL next (school) year, and hopefully by the first of May. The league would like to stay intact."

Besides West Contra Costa school district schools, another question has to be answered: What league will Alameda, Berkeley and Encinal play in

next school year?

"There has to be a determination about where the three teams will play," Jones said.

"Usually, our schedules for the next academic year are already made up. None of that has been done because we didn't know the status of West County."

Right now, the most urgency as far as schedules are concerned is from fall sports such

as football and girls volleyball.

"Football and volleyball (teams) have to set their schedules months in advance with league opponents and non-league opponents. You can't go into the summer not knowing whether you are going to play or not because of these schedules," Jones said.

Jones said Tuesday that he was at a meeting Tuesday afternoon with senior district of-

ficials and some principals of the West Contra Costa school district.

"West County is making a concerted effort to find alternative funding. They are pursuing, which is encouraging, a direction and fast. Their goal is to try to raise enough money that schools can compete in some of the major sports for next year," Jones said.

Berkeley

FROM PAGE 1

eight straight titles. There has to be some sort of acknowledgment. To put Division I, the biggest division in the section, in the first game, is demeaning."

The Division IV game between Piedmont and St. Mary's occupied the prime spot with a 6 p.m. start.

Displeasure aside, there was still a game to be played, and the Yellow Jackets jumped right in.

Berkeley put the clamps down defensively, using a 2-3 zone to make life difficult for Deer Valley post player Nocolia Simmons. The strategy worked, but Simmons wasn't the only one to feel its effect. The Wolverines (22-4) hit just four field goals in the first half and trailed 37-13 at the break.

Simmons finished with a team-high 14 points, but that was not nearly enough to help Deer Valley climb out of its hole.

On the flip side, Berkeley

couldn't miss. The Yellow Jackets connected on 22 of 38 shots from the floor at the end of three quarters.

"They were making their shots and we couldn't hit anything," Wolverines coach Kerry Sweeney said. "Our legs were like cement. Normally, we're gambling and chasing, and we didn't do any of that. I had to call two timeouts in the first quarter, and I haven't had to do that all season. They could kind of feel the panic, but I was just trying to stop the avalanche."

Still, no amount of timeouts was going to change things. Berkeley was already rolling at too fast a speed. Point guard Danesha Wright scored back-to-back transition buckets to push her team's lead to 43-16 with just over five minutes to go in the third quarter. Wright led all scorers with 20 points. Brittany

Moore scored 14 points, and Shavajia James added 10.

"We came out strong and had confidence," Wright said. "I didn't think it was going to be that easy. We wanted to show people that we could play and convince people we're better than where we were. Having Berkeley play at 10 a.m. ... It doesn't even sound right."

Berkeley 59, Castro Valley 51: The No. 2 Yellow Jackets advanced to the championship game with a victory on March 4 in Berkeley.

Berkeley held a 38-36 lead to start the fourth quarter, but center Alexandria Mitchell went 6-of-6 from the free-throw line to extend the advantage. She finished with 10 points and was one of four players to score in double figures for the Yellow Jackets. Andrea Keys led them with 15 points.

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Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

the tension building to almost painful levels. Two tragedies lie at its heart, with breakout performances by Sean Penn and Tim Robbins as childhood friends forever shaped by ominous events. — M. Pols. (R; language, violence.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. **A-**

"OSAMA": This fictional Afghan film takes place sometime before U.S. bombs began falling on Kabul, when the Taliban was ravaging the country. It recounts the twined story of a 12-year-old girl forced into male disguise in order to work to feed herself, her mother and grandmother, and that of Afghan women whose right to exist was all but denied in the name of God. Raw and wretchedly current, it packs a cruel emotional wallop. — M. Dargis. (PG-13: mature thematic elements.) 1 hour, 22 minutes. **B+**

"THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST": Mel Gibson directed and co-wrote this literal — and relentlessly brutal — retelling of the last 12 hours of Jesus' life. Although deeply intense and at times moving, the film is so violent, it ultimately pushes the viewer away and squanders its opportunity to enlighten. The best scenes are between Mary and her son, when Gibson backs off and lets the humanity shine through. — K. Hershenson. (R: intense graphic violence.) 2 hours, 6 minutes. **C**

"RED TROUSERS: THE LIFE OF THE HONG KONG STUNTMAN": Martial arts star and former stunt man Robin Shou has made an affectionate, illuminating documentary on the dedicated and daring professionals who have made the stunt work in Hong Kong action pictures the most exciting in the world over the past 25 years. The film is also poignant, for the Hong Kong film industry has been fading. — (Not rated: standard martial arts action and violence, none of it excessive.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. **B+**

"SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE": When making a love story, you've got to consider the kissability of your stars. Watching this movie, it's hard to imagine anyone wanting to smooch the male lead. That would be Jack Nicholson, as a raffish music executive who starts out dating a young woman (Amanda Peet), but finds himself falling for her mother (Diane Keaton). This was an opportunity to make a statement about truly adult romance, but director Nancy Meyers blows it. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, brief nudity, strong language.) **C**

"STARSKY & HUTCH": Not so much a movie version of the 1970s buddy-cop TV show as it is "Zoolander" with guns. When investigating a murder,

Starsky (Ben Stiller) and Hutch (Owen Wilson) begin to suspect a wealthy drug kingpin (Vince Vaughn). Really, though, the case is just an excuse for the pair to play dress-up as they go undercover. With Snoop Dogg as informant Huggy Bear. — C. Lemire. (PG-13: drug content, sexual situations, partial nudity, language and some violence.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. **C**

"THE STATION AGENT": A reticent dwarf, a grieving mother and a chatty hot-dog vendor walk into a bar. Actually, they drink beer on a porch. Sounds like the setup to a joke, but it's the premise of this small film bursting with insightful humor, unforced poignancy and beautifully drawn characters. Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkson and Bobby Cannavale vividly portray three lonely people in rural New Jersey who form an unlikely social circle, despite their anti-social tendencies. — C. Lemire. (R: language, some drug content.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. **B+**

"TOUCHING THE VOID": Two climbers go up a mountain in Peru. One breaks his leg and must be lowered by his partner. When the rope leaves the injured man dangling helpless and hopeless over a crevasse, his partner makes the decision to cut the rope to save his own life. This compelling documentary, featuring interviews with the survivors and re-creations of the climb using actors, is agonizingly suspenseful, even though we know the remarkable outcome from the get-go. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 46 minutes. **B+**

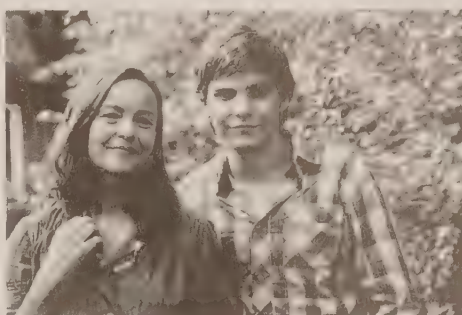
"THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE": The film's two lines of intelligible dialogue have been dubbed into English. Its sensibility, however, remains irreducibly French. The overture is a black-and-white spectacle: naughty, exuberant and a little creepy. It introduces the Triplets of the title, a trio of gangly, cloche-wearing scat singers. The story is too bizarre and wonderful to summarize, but it winds up in Belleville, a Manhattan-like dream city. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: some violent and frightening scenes.) 1 hour, 20 minutes. **A**

"21 GRAMS": Like Mexican director Gonzalez Inarritu's last film, "Amores Perros," this one is about the ways tragedy (in this case a car accident) creates an unstoppable emotional maelstrom for those involved. Its arty, choppy style distracts from the truth: that the film is permeated with melodrama and not as deep as it seems. Sean Penn is great in the lead, but better in "Mystic River." — M. Pols. (R: language, sexuality, some violence and drug use.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. **B-**

"TWISTED": Newly promoted homicide investigator Jessica Shepard (Ashley Judd) is one twisted sister.



ANTHONY ANDERSON, front, and Frankie Muniz star in "Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London."



ALEX (Daniel Bruhl), right, is romantically involved with nursing student Lara (Chulpan Khamatova) in "Good Bye, Lenin!"

Her father had been a near-legendary cop before going on a killing spree that ended with her mother's death and his suicide. Her first case involves a serial killer whose victims all happen to be her former bed partners, and as evidence points her way, she begins to wonder if she has inherited Dad's homicidal urges.

Samuel L. Jackson and Andy Garcia have low-impact roles in this convoluted thriller wannabe. — P. Vuntch. (R: violence, sex, language, nudity.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. **C-**

"YOU GOT SERVED": David and Elgin, leaders of a street dance troupe, take on all comers. No crew in Los Angeles can touch their scintillating



GRANDPA GREEN (Ben Keith) talks with cousin Jed (Eric Johnson) in "Greendale," a movie by singer Neil Young.

moves until Wade, a smirky, spiky-haired suburban white boy, brings in a pack to steal their thunder. After besting the pair, he snarls, "You suckers got served!" The plot — and there really isn't enough of one to fill a music video — revolves around a rift be-

tween David and Elgin. Wade patches up their difference at the big dance contest and to show up Wade? Duh! — (PG-13: drug violence, mild violence.) 1 hour, 11 minutes. **D**

AUDITIONS AND CLASSES

Auditions

■ **California Youth Symphony** — School-age musicians. Check Web site www.cys.org for audition requirements and to download forms. 650-325-6666

■ **Cathy Steele Model and Talent Management** — Open auditions for models, actors and singers, ages 5 and older. Singers must have their own material and demos. Models' potential will be evaluated on an individual basis. No experience necessary. A world-class showcase will be held in Orlando, Fla., in July. Major Screen Actors Guild agents and casting directors attend this showcase. Call for audition dates and times. 925-676-9905.

■ **Contra Costa Ballet Centre** — For entrance into the summer intensive training program, July 5-Aug. 14, 1:30-2:45 p.m., ages 9-12 with previous ballet training, and 3-5 p.m., ages 13-19 with intermediate to advanced dancers, Sunday. Arrive half an hour prior to audition to register. Bring full-body photo. 925-935-7984.

■ **Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra** — Looking for talented, enthusiastic musicians, particularly additional string players. Contact Harvey Benstein, 925-284-1583; director@ccorch.org; hbenstein@acallanes.k12.ca.us.

■ **Contra Costa Children's Chorus** — Auditions are now being scheduled for placement in Levels I, II, III and Boys Chorus. Ages 5-18. Be prepared to sing a song of your choice. No previous choral experience is necessary. 925-945-7101, Ext. 200, or front-desk@childrenschorus.org.

■ **Contra Costa Musical Theatre** — "Grease," auditions April 18, noon-6 p.m.; April 19, 7-10 p.m.; April 20, 7-10 p.m. Need seven-10 males ages 16-25; two males 25 and older; seven-10 females 16-25; one female 40 and over. Prepare an up-tempo Broadway number or '50s-era rock song plus one- to two-minute dialogue. Bring sheet music in key. Accompaniment

provided. Rehearsals begin mid-July; performance Sept. 3-Oct. 2 at the Regional Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek. Contact www.ccmtr.org or 925-210-0268.

■ **Danville Community Band** — Needs experienced French horn, trombone, trumpet and percussion musicians. Rehearsals: 7-9 p.m. Mondays. Contact Conductor Larry Anderson, 925-736-1673.

■ **Devil Mountain Chorus** — Seeking men to sing four-part harmony during informal songfests, vocal education sessions and show performances. Sight-reading not necessary. Rehearsals and auditions, 7:45 p.m. Tuesdays, Trinity Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 2317 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-938-7664.

■ **Diablo Regional Concert Band** — Needs musicians in all sections. The band plays all types of music including classical, marches and show tunes. Performances are throughout the year in Martinez, Benicia and Pleasant Hill. Rehearsals 7 p.m. Thursdays. Performing Center for the Arts, Alhambra High School, E Street, Martinez. Frank Cavoto, 707-748-1728.

■ **Diablo Valley College Chamber Orchestra** — Flutes, bassoons, trumpets, French horns, trombones, tuba, harp, piano, percussion, strings and voices. The fourth concert of the 2003-04 season, "Mom and Apple Pie," will be 7:30 p.m. May 17. Rehearsals are 7 p.m. Tuesdays. All participants must enroll in DVC Orchestra for the spring semester. Dr. Mark Alburger, 707-451-0714 or www.dvc.edu.

■ **Golden Gate Boys Choir** — 4-6 p.m. Tuesdays, St. Raymond Catholic Church, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin. For boys 6 and older with unchanged voices. Members receive vocal training, music theory and Off instrument training. Appointments: 510-887-4311 or www.GGBC.org.

■ **Katie's Dance Company** — Seeking male dancers, ages 11-21, to perform

in ongoing professional shows in the Bay Area. Dance experience required. Dancers may enroll in training classes, which offer opportunities to fill dance company openings. 10311 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Appointments: Katie, 510-524-1310 or 925-229-2695.

■ **Livermore Valley Opera** — "The Elxir of Love," 7:30-10 p.m. March 31, Livermore Academy of Performing Arts, 315 Wright Bros. Ave., Livermore. Plan to sing a short selection of your own choosing. In addition, auditionees will be tested for pitch memory as well as asked to sing a portion of an excerpt for the chorus. The excerpt will be provided, along with a tape with the individual voice part played on the piano and with the Italian text spoken rhythmically. Rehearsals for the chorus will be 7:30-10 p.m. Wednesday evenings, beginning in April. Four "ringers," paid singers, are sought to be section leaders for the chorus. If you are interested in being considered for one of the four "ringer" positions, please indicate that on your audition form. 925-443-2237.

■ **Oakland Symphony Chorus** — Singers to perform Beethoven's Missa Solemnis with Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, Kent Nagano, conductor. Singers who have attractive voices, sight-reading skills and a commitment to fine choral singing. Rehearsals 7:30-10 p.m. Wednesdays. To schedule audition, call 510-207-4093.

■ **Pot O' Gold Chorus** — Seeking men to sing four-part harmony. Offering performance and musical education opportunities for men who want to participate at the highest levels. 7:29 p.m. rehearsals Mondays, Lynwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black

Ave., Pleasanton. 925-443-7464, www.bayareaemtro.org.

■ **Simon Stinger** — Alternate dancers for a Bay Area rock, dance and electropop band. Travel up and down the West Coast. Pay ranges between \$25-\$60. Practices are at DVC, Pleasant Hill. Alicia, 925-228-5720.

■ **Valley Shakespeare Festival** — "Cymbeline," March 21 and 22. Union and non-union. Some pay; some housing available. Prepare one two-minute Shakespearean monologue. Outdoor performances Aug. 5-21 at Retzlaff Winery, Livermore. For appointment, contact Jenny Lynn, 925-556-9624, or jennyllyn@valleyshakes.org.

■ **Walnut Creek Concert Band** — Applicants will be considered for all sections. Conductor: Harvey Benstein, 925-284-1583.

■ **Willows Theatre Company** — Willows Theatre Company and Diablo Light Opera Company joint open call for Summer Festival in Martinez. "The Sound of Music," "John Muir's Mountain Days" and "Brigadoon," 7-10 p.m. March 28, 6:30-10:30 p.m. AEA and non-AEA, March 29, and 3-5 p.m. AEA only and 6:30-10:30 p.m. all, March 30. Prepare one contemporary monologue, under two minutes, and 16-32 bars of a song. Some roles paid. AEA Outdoor Drama contract. Appointments: 925-798-1824, Ext. 11.

■ **WomenSing** — Seeking experienced women singers for a performance of the Faure Requiem, in collaboration

with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Rehearsals Wednesday evenings in Lafayette. Performances May 22, San Francisco, and May 23, Berkeley. Appointments: 925-974-9169 or info@WomenSing.org.

■ **Woodminster Summer Musicals** — "Annie," "The Will Rogers Follies" and "Flower Drum Song," children, March 27-28, and open call April 3-4. Equity auditions by appointment after Monday. The company is also accepting resumes for choreographers, set de-

signers, lighting designers, and choral director.

Classes/workshops

■ **Actor's Studio** — Young actors ages 7-19 who are interested in acting, box office, advertising, and programs lighting, stage managing, house and stage directing may send a letter of interest to Stage Door Productions, 3521 Mayfield Ave., CA 94619.

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Events

REPERTORY THEATRE — "Ghosts" by Henrik Ibsen. Through April 11. At her husband's funeral, a mother must decide whether to tell her son her husband's true name. Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. No performance March 13. \$15-\$25.

STAGE — "Yellowman" by Anderson Smith, closing March 14. A young African-American man, fall in love with his friend, a light-skinned African-American man, fall in love with the color of their skin. Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; March 13, 8 p.m. \$15-\$25.

Presenters: Code Blue at the Zoo by Barbara Brown. March 20, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. performance incorporating music and dance to make biology and science accessible to audiences of all ages. Presented by the Berkeley Council One-Arts Festival, "The Arts in the City." March 21, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Performance by Bay Area teens. Saturday, Sunday, 2 p.m. 10 general school students and 10 adults. \$15-\$25.

NIGHT PLAYGROUND SE- March 13, 8 p.m. A monthly showcase works from new and established playwrights. \$12. 415-704-4444. www.playground-se.org

SE- "V-Day Berkeley" March 13, 7:30 p.m. A benefit concert for Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," as part of the V-Day celebration against rape and violence against women. Performance begins at 6:30 p.m. Producers: Bay Area Women's Center and the Family Violence Prevention Fund. \$30. 415-647-6477. www.berkeleyse.org

PERFORMANCES — "Spirit of the West" March 20, 8 p.m. This performance is an effort to promote understanding between people of different cultures through the most universal of expression — music. "The Spirit of Fire Tour" March vocalists Francoise Atkinson vocal ensemble Hadra and the Taroudant, North Carolina ensemble The Anointed Brothers, Ohio percussionist Ahmad, Moroccan oud player Khalil, Muslim caller to prayer Hassan and Jewish singer Gabriel Meyer. March 20, 3 p.m. Artists participate in a round-table discussion titled "The Spirit of the West." moderated by ethnomusicologist Susan. The participants will discuss the history of the festival in Morocco and its impact on peace and global dialogue through music. Al 125 Morrison Berkeley campus. Free. 415-842-7300. The presentation film by Terrance Grace, the 2003 Fest Festival in Morocco titled "Sawt-e-Sarmad: The Intercultural Man." At the same Hall. This event is free with admission.

WORKS THEATER ENSEMBLE — "The Duel" by Anton Chekhov. March 27. The story of an intense confrontation between a

hapless civil servant and a ruthless social-Darwinist. \$8 to \$20. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-558-1381 or www.centralworks.org.

CITY OF OAKLAND AND THE WORLD INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY — "The Art of Disability," March 20, 7 p.m. A showcase for performing artists with disabilities with performances by members of Axis Dance Company, poet and disability activist Leroy Moore, and Greg Walloch in "White Disabled Talent." A reception follows the performance. Refrain from wearing scented products to this event. \$12 to \$50. Alice Arts Center, 1428 Alice St., Oakland. 510-654-6346 or www.heternet.net/picks.htm.

HARLEM SHAKE BURLESQUE — "Risque Rhythms: A Tribute to Burlesque," March 19, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. A cabaret-style performance featuring traditional burlesque by Harlem Shake Burlesque. The 7:30 p.m. show is a family-friendly performance and children are welcome; the 9:30 p.m. show is for adults only. \$15 to \$20. Oakland Box Theatre, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or www.harlemshakeburlesque.com.

IMPACT THEATRE — Now permanently housed under a pizza restaurant, dinner and a show are available if you like pizza. "Say You Love Satan" by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, closing March 13. Andrew decides to dabble in the dark side when he begins dating the son of the Devil in this comedy. \$15 general; \$10 students and seniors Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. La Val's Subterranean, 1634 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-464-4668 or www.impacttheatre.com.

KIMBALLS EAST — "Martha's Scandalous Speakeasy Show and Sexy Cirque Extravaganza," March 17 through April 11. A sexy and fun show featuring aerialists, show girls, circus acts, samba girls, singing and music. Doors open for dinner and cocktails at 7 p.m.; the Extravaganza begins at 8:30 p.m. \$29 to \$79. Thursday through Sunday, 6 p.m.; March 17, 6 p.m.; No performance March 18. 6005 Shellmound St., Emeryville. 800-595-4TIX or www.scandals4short.com.

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER — "Confessions of a Cha Cha Feminist," March 13, 8 p.m. A solo performance by Maria Elena Fernandez about her rebellion against her traditional Mexican upbringing. \$12 per person. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org.

OAKLAND BOX THEATRE — "Bone Songs: Echoes of the Unknown Mother," March 13, 8 p.m. A multimedia ritual theater production by the Herstories Project. 510-594-1377. \$10 to \$25.

"Thieves in the Temple: The Reclaiming of Hip-Hop," March 14 through March 28. A one-woman hip-hop theater performance by Aya de Leon, focusing on the cultural and social aspects of hip-hop from a woman's point of view. March 14, March 15, March 21, 7 p.m.; March 26, 8 p.m.; March 2, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; March 28, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. \$3 to \$10.

"The Oakland Poetry Slam," first and third Thursdays, 8 p.m. to midnight. An open-mic poetry and music event followed by a performance by touring poets of national acclaim. The night

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"THAT'S DISGUSTING" By TYLER HINMAN / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 "Hurly!"</p> <p>5 Ambassador of old autodom</p> <p>9 Belief in most religions</p> <p>18 Bank</p> <p>20 Army surface-to-surface missile</p> <p>21 Best Picture of 2000</p> <p>22 Title village in a 1979 Francesco Rossi film</p> <p>23 Like a certain number system</p> <p>24 What was just laid in the henhouse?</p> <p>25 Working with turquoise and ultramarine cloth?</p> <p>26 Invoice amount</p> <p>29 Connect with</p> <p>30 Laundry job</p> <p>31 Music bit</p> <p>34 Halve</p> <p>37 Ranch head</p> <p>40 Where "Falstaff" debuted, 1893</p> <p>43 Reel it</p> <p>45 Leading figure</p> <p>46 False god</p> <p>48 Mideast carrier</p> <p>49 "A stitch in time"</p> | <p>50 Tense tip for a street fighter?</p> <p>54 Sample</p> <p>55 Gold-medal speed skater Johann Koss</p> <p>57 Stripe wearers</p> <p>58 Bosses</p> <p>59 Golfer called the Big Easy</p> <p>60 Chad toucher</p> <p>62 Places to sit</p> <p>65 Families may have them</p> <p>67 Spectacles</p> <p>69 "The sweetest gift of heaven": Virgil</p> <p>71 Like some health coverage</p> <p>74 Wings-it</p> <p>77 Cruelly</p> <p>80 Shoe material</p> <p>81 Elaborate</p> <p>83 Philippine province or its capital</p> <p>85 Strummed instruments</p> <p>87 Rare bills</p> <p>88 Informal Valentine word</p> <p>89 Bird tendon?</p> <p>93 "poetica"</p> <p>94 Barber's job</p> <p>96 Bee</p> <p>97 "Newspapers (media chant)"</p> <p>98 Stick</p> <p>100 Out</p> <p>102 Small bags</p> | <p>104 Encephalitis cause</p> <p>105 Actress Polo</p> <p>106 Smick's partner</p> <p>108 Pageant judging criterion</p> <p>110 On easy street</p> <p>112 Nut taken directly from the freezer?</p> <p>118 Lake had coffee?</p> <p>122 Lit</p> <p>123 Cole Porter's "Men"</p> <p>124 Suppressor</p> <p>125 Presses</p> <p>126 Singer Lucretia</p> <p>127 Make out an envelope for</p> <p>128 After-dinner selection</p> <p>129 Fall sound</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Super-duper</p> <p>2 Kemo — ("trustworthy scout")</p> <p>3 Three-in-one</p> <p>4 Nicer</p> <p>5 Some chips</p> <p>6 Some chips, maybe</p> <p>7 Union foe</p> <p>8 Fraternity travail</p> <p>9 "The Bantered Bride" mezzo</p> <p>10 Blood's partner</p> <p>11 Playing marble</p> <p>12 Fall place</p> <p>13 Choral concert</p> <p>14 framework</p> <p>15 One suffix</p> <p>16 Driving danger</p> <p>17 Dye-centimeter</p> <p>19 Small taxi</p> <p>20 Trent of Mississippi</p> <p>26 Go</p> <p>27 Old map, initials</p> <p>32 Not the real Martha?</p> <p>33 Swing wildly</p> <p>34 Buffalo's AAA baseball team</p> <p>35 Leaning, in a way</p> <p>36 What the inspector gave the waste treatment center?</p> <p>38 Some sculptures</p> <p>39 St. Louis-to-Indianapolis dir</p> <p>40 Staples' Center player</p> <p>41 Attorney Gloria</p> <p>42 Bernese</p> <p>44 They get fleeced</p> <p>46 Sticker</p> <p>47 Elec. designation</p> <p>51 Tailward</p> <p>52 Fred</p> <p>53 Mountain road features</p> <p>56 Peddle</p> <p>61 Museum piece</p> <p>63 Actress Nancy of "Sunset Blvd."</p> <p>64 Stew ingredient</p> | <p>66 Threaded holder</p> <p>68 It's stored on a farm</p> <p>70 Page when Vatican City became independent</p> <p>72 Eats up</p> <p>73 Rent payer</p> <p>75 Blasé</p> <p>76 Yea or nays</p> <p>78 Water</p> <p>79 Computer offering</p> <p>81 Der — (the old man) Ger</p> <p>82 Fred — front man of rock's Lamp Bizzit</p> <p>84 Fleur-de-</p> <p>86 Kind of tank</p> <p>90 Demonstrated</p> <p>91 Pollster Harris</p> <p>92 Holiday revelry</p> <p>95 Popular chocolate treat</p> <p>99 Course starter</p> <p>101 Great Plains capital</p> <p>102 Jellied delicacy</p> <p>103 Carousal</p> <p>106 Track</p> <p>107 Give the — (pick) Abby</p> <p>109 Chances</p> <p>111 Turner and others</p> <p>113 Bring on</p> <p>114 Tiny organism</p> <p>115 Biblical verb</p> <p>116 Cry of Casat</p> <p>117 Narc's target</p> <p>118 "Mad About You" cartoon</p> <p>119 Hospital ward part</p> <p>120 Cousin of mks</p> <p>121 Lived</p> |
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ends with a poetry slam in which poets compete to get to the finals for a place on the 2004 Oakland Slam Team. \$10

1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com.

PARAMOUNT THEATRE — "If These Hips Could Talk," through March 13. A multimedia stage musical about women's explorations of sexual promiscuity, abusive relationships, dieting and marriage. \$29.50 to \$39.50. Wednesday through Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 925-685-TIXS. 510-625-TIXS. 415-421-TIXS or www.ticketmaster.com.

TRANSPARENT THEATRE — "San Francisco Noir: Stories of Dashiell Hammett" by Tom Clyde, closing March 21. The story of a multistage stubborn detective who dives into the underbelly of San Francisco circa 1927, dealing with houses of ill repute on Telegraph Hill, Chinatown side streets and back-office detectives at the Hall of Justice. \$25 per person; Thursdays pay-what-you-can. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m. 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-0305 or www.transparenttheatre.org.

UC BERKELEY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, DANCE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES — "Marat/Sade" by Peter Weiss, closing March 14. Also known as "The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton Under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade," the play takes place in an insane asylum with de Sade directing his fellow inmates in a play about the French revolutionary Marat. \$14 general; \$8 seniors and students Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday,

2 p.m. Zellerbach Playhouse, Spieker Plaza, UC Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way and Dana Street, Berkeley. 866-468-3399 or www.ticketweb.com.

WOMEN'S WILL — "The 24-Hour PlayFest," March 15, 8 p.m. Seven female playwrights, seven female directors and 35 actors race against the clock to write, rehearse and perform seven brand-new plays within 24 hours. \$12 to \$25. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542 or www.juliamorgan.org.

POPULAR MUSIC — **ALBATROSS PUB** — Don and Michele Clark, Steven Donaldson, Cathryn Bauer and Friends, March 17, 8:30 p.m. Free. Unless otherwise noted, shows begin Wednesdays, 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 p.m. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473 or www.albatrosspub.com.

ASHKENAZ — Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums with Ms. Carmen Gellit, March 12, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Kotoja, March 13, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Sauce Picante, March 16, 8:30 p.m. \$9. Stump Tail Dog, March 17, 9 p.m. \$9. Raskidus, Jah Fly, Unda P, March 18, 9:30 p.m. \$9.

1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-5055 or www.ashkenaz.com.

BECKETT'S IRISH PUB — Point Blank, March 12. Rock 'n' Roll with Nicole, March 13 and March 20. Blue on Green, March 17, 10 p.m. San Francisco Medicine Ball, March 18. Woman, March 19. Free. For ages 21 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790 or

www.beckettsirishpub.com

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — Captured! By Robots, March 12. \$6. The Fountain St. Theatre Band, Wart Sonic Orange, March 13. \$6. With Muchas Bluegracias, March 17, 8 p.m. \$3. AC/DShe, The Station, Stiletta, March 19, \$10. The Lucky Stiffs, Blvd Strays, Jack Killed Jill, March 20. \$6. Acoustic Wednesday with Mike Lee Prasad and guests, Wednesdays, 10 p.m. Free. The Steve Gannon Band and Mz. Dee, Mondays. \$4. For ages 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886 or www.blakesontelegraph.com.

CAL PERFORMANCES — "Newport Jazz Festival 50th Anniversary Tour," March 19, 8 p.m. A concert featuring performances by Terence Blanchard, Cedar Walton, Lew Tabackin, Ken Pelmowski, Lea DeLaria, Howard Alden, Peter Washington and Karriem Riggins. \$22 to \$46. Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

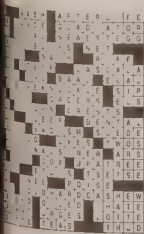
DOWNTOWN — Danny Caron, March 12. Eric Shifrin and the In Crowd, March 13. Mini Fox Solo Guitar, March 16. Jules Broussard, Bing Nathan and Ned Boynton, March 17. Keni El Lebrjano Flamenco Guitar, March 18. Michael Bluestein Trio, March 19. Scott Amendola with Ben Goldberg, Devin Hoff, March 20. Free. Tuesday through Thursday, 8

p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or www.downtownrestaurant.com.

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — John Santos Quartet with Orestes Vilato and Orlando Torrente, March 12. \$16.50. Barbara Higbie and Friends, March 13. \$17.50 to \$18.50. Alasdair Fraser with Muriel Johnstone, March 14, 2 p.m. \$18.50 to \$19.50. Joni Mitchell Song Night, March 14. Featuring Beth Robinson, Lynn Smith, Caren Armstrong, Elaine Dempsey, Rachel Bissex, Megan McLaughlin and Christie McCarthy. \$15.50 to \$16.50. Kelly Joe Phelps, March 15. \$17.50 to \$18.50. The Black Brothers: Shay, Michael and Martin, March 16. \$17.50 to \$18.50. Green and Roots, March 17. \$15.50 to \$16.50. David Maloney, March 18. \$15.50 to \$16.50. Leftover Dreams with Tony Marcus and Patrice Haan, March 19. \$15.50 to \$16.50. Janis Ian, March 20. \$20.50 to \$21.50. Dya Dash with Luke Yankel, March 21. \$15.50 to \$16.50. Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761. (866) 468-3399 or www.freightandsalvage.org.

GRAND LAKE FARMERS MARKET ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE — The entertainers perform continuously during the market hours. At Splash Pad Plaza. March 13: The Big Dog Band.

See EVENTS, Page C8



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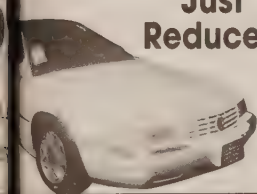
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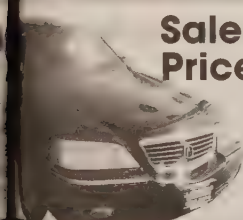
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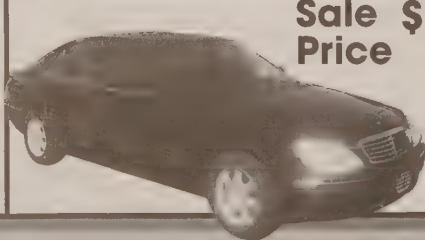
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Events

FROM PAGE C5

March 20: The King's Point Reggaea. Free. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Splash Pad Park, Grand and Lake Park avenues, Oakland. 510-451-6537 or www.geocities.com/splashpad

JAZZ HOUSE — Viv Corrington and Friends, March 13. Price to be announced.

Shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3192 Adeline St., Berkeley. 415-846-9432 or www.thejazzhouse.org

JAZZSCHOOL — Sheldon Brown Group, March 13, 8 p.m. \$10 to \$15. Ledisi featuring the Marcus Shelby Trio, March 14, 4:30 p.m. \$20

Madeline Eastman, March 20, 8 p.m. \$20

John Calloway and Diaspora, March 21, 4:30 p.m. \$10 to \$15

Hardymon Hall, The Jazzschool, 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373 or www.jazzschool.com

KIMBALLS EAST — Alex Bugnon, March 12 through March 14, 8 p.m. \$28.

"Martha's Scandalous Speakeasy Show and Sexy Cirque Extravaganza," March 17 through April 11. Singing, showgirls, circus acts and aerialists. \$29 to \$59.

Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. 6005 Shellmound St., Emeryville. 510-762-BASS or www.kimballs.com

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER — Game, Kahili Amustaka, Kirby Dominant, Boggie Shack, Attick, March 12, 9 p.m. \$10 general; \$8 students.

Pat Humphries, Sandy Opatow, March 14, 7:30 p.m. \$10 to \$15

Lichi Fumes, March 19, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$14

Para ti Chichito Cepeda, March 20, 8 p.m. \$12

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2588 or www.lapena.org

MCGRATH'S IRISH PUB — "St. Patty's Day Party," March 17, 7 p.m. With Starboard Watch and Tinkers Damn. High Country, March 20, 8 p.m. \$5. 1539 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-552-6263 or www.mcgrathspub.com

924 GILMAN ST. — The Phenomenonauts, Rock 'N' Roll Adventure Kids, The Secretions, The Paranoids, Safe-ways, March 12.

All Bets Off, Daughters, Some Girls, Chise Stars, Paint Out The Light, March 13

Thought Riot, Life In Pictures, March 14, 5 p.m.

Gravy Train, Quails, Kingdom, Deadly Weapons, March 19

Allegiance, Lights Out, Our Turn, Worm Thin, Answer, Dead in Hollywood, March 20

All ages welcome. Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m. unless noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926 or www.924gilman.org

OAKLAND BOX THEATER — "Tuesday Night Oakland Box Series," 8 p.m. Live and experimental music. \$7 to \$1000.

1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com

QUINN'S LIGHTHOUSE — The Starboard Watch featuring Skip Henderson, Thursdays, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Free. 51 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland. 510-536-2050

SHATTUCK DOWN LOW — Home At Last, March 12, 9 p.m. \$5.

Johnny Tabot and Da Thangs, March 19, 9 p.m. \$10 general; \$8 students.

Reggae Angels, March 20, 9 p.m. \$10 general; \$5 students.

Live Salsa Night, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. \$10

For ages 21 and older. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159 or www.shattuckdownlow.com

STARRY PLOUGH PUB — Celtic Melt-down, Ian Butler, Blue on Green, Hy Brassyl, March 12, 8 p.m.

Farma, Crooked Jades, The Shiftless Rounders, March 13, \$10.

"St. Patty's Day Celebration," March 17, 5 p.m. With Irish music and poets. \$7.

Slow Poisers, Transcender, Evergreen Dazed, March 18, \$5.

Gun and Doll Show, Lemon Lime Lights, March 19, \$6.

The People, Justifi, The Hep, March 20, \$7.

For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082

YOSHIS — Keiko Matsui, through March 14, \$24 to \$28

Claudia Acuna, March 15, \$14.

Kitty Margolis, March 16, \$16.

Ahmad Jamal, March 17 through March 21, \$10 to \$22.

Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200, www.yoshis.com or www.ticketweb.com

CLASSICAL MUSIC

BAROQUE CHORAL GUILD — "Rachmaninoff's Vespers," March 14, 7:30 p.m. A performance of traditional Byzantine chants and harmonies. \$25 general; \$20 seniors; \$6 students. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 650-424-1410 or www.bcg.org

BERKELEY OPERA — "The Legend of the Ring," closing March 14. A condensed version of the opera by Richard Wagner. In German with English subtitles. \$40 general; \$35 seniors; \$15 youth and disabled persons; \$10 students. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; March 14, 2 p.m. Julia Morgan

Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-1903 or www.berkeleyopera.org

BERKELEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — "21st Century Cello," March 16, 8 p.m. A performance conducted by Kent Nagano, honoring cellist Laszlo Varga and featuring works by Tchaikovsky, Elliott Carter and Beethoven, as well as a world premiere by Karen Tanska.

Pre-concert Lecture, March 16, 7:10 p.m. The lecture features Laszlo Varga and Janos Starker. Free

\$21 to \$45 general; \$10 students.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-841-2800 or www.berkeley-symphony.org

CAL PERFORMANCES — Netherlands Bach Society, March 13, 8 p.m. Jos van Veldhoven conducts a performance of the program "Bach and His Musical Inheritance," featuring music by Schelle, Kuhnau, Buxtehude, Johann Bach and Johann Sebastian Bach \$38

Tenor Salvatore Licita, March 21, 7 p.m. Eugene Kohn conducts Licita and members of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra in a performance of works by Verdi, Wood, Rachmaninoff, Bernstein, Puccini, Mascagni and Ponchielli. \$38 to \$100.

Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

CROWDEN SCHOOL AND CENTER FOR MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY — SUNDAYS AT FOUR — Laszlo Varga and Friends, March 14, 4 p.m. A performance of music for cello and piano as well as chamber music.

\$12 general; free for youth ages 18 and younger. 1475 Rose St., Berkeley. 510-559-6910 or www.thecrowden-school.org

CYPRESS STRING QUARTET — "Call and Response," March 21, 2 p.m. A concert exploring how music is an ongoing process of inspiration, featuring works by Haydn and Mozart and a world premiere by Jeffrey Cotton.

\$10 general; \$5 children. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 925-798-1300 or www.juliamorgan.org

FOUR SEASONS CONCERTS — "From the Yachats Music Festival," March 20, 7:30 p.m. A concert featuring pianists Leon Bates and Dennis Helmrich, baritone Rafael Lebron and Robert Sims, and soprano Ilya Martinez. The musicians will perform works by Schumann, Mendelssohn, Ravel, Bizet, Dvorak, Donizetti, Berlioz and Vaughan Williams, as well as spirituals arranged by Roland Hayes and a Barcarolle and Dance.

\$25 to \$35. Calvin Simmons Theatre, 10 Tenth St., Oakland. 510-601-7919 or www.fourseasonsconcerts.com

51ST ANNUAL JUNIOR BACH FESTIVAL — March 12 through March 21. The annual weeklong festival of instrumental and choral music by Johann Sebastian Bach, performed by outstanding young Bay Area musicians from ages 7 to 21, in honor of Bach's birthday on March 21.

March 12 and March 19, 7:30 p.m.: At the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

March 13 and March 14: At St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

March 21, 3 p.m.: "The Birthday Concert." At the First Presbyterian Church, 2619 Broadway, Oakland.

\$10 general; \$5 students and seniors

510-THE-BACH or www.unorbach.org

MAGNIFICAT — "Madrigal e Cantate" by Babara Strozzi, March 13, 8 p.m. A performance of music by the Italian baroque composer.

\$25 general; \$18 seniors; \$12 students.

First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 415-979-4500 or www.magnificat.org

MUSICSOURCES — "Bach's Birthday Bash," March 21, 5 p.m. A celebration of Bach's birthday with performances of gamba and cello suites, as well as arias from his cantatas, featuring Elisabeth Reed, viola da gamba and baroque cello; Corey Jamason, harpsichord; Catherine Webster, soprano; and Cynthia Miller Freyvogel, violin.

\$18 general; \$15 students and seniors. 1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley. 510-528-1685

OAKLAND EAST BAY SYMPHONY — March 19, 8 p.m. Michael Morgan conducts a performance of Beethoven's "Symphony No. 7," the world premiere of "Devolution" by Anthony De Ritis, and Ravel's "Bolero." \$15 to \$58. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-625-8497 or www.oebso.org

OAKLAND INTERFAITH CHORAL PRESENTS — "Annual Free Gospel Concert," March 13, 7:30 p.m. With performances by the Love Center Choir and Eugene Cole.

Free. First Congregational Church of Oakland, 27th and Harrison streets, Oakland. 510-839-4361 or www.oicg.org

PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA — "La Musique du Roi Soleil," March 20 and March 21. Bernard Labadie conducts a performance of music from masters of the French courts, featuring violinist Katherine Kyme.

\$29 to \$60. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7:30 p.m. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 415-392-4400 or www.philharmonia.org

ST. JOHNS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — G.S. Sachdev, March 20, 7:30 p.m.

The bansuri maestro will perform an evening of traditional classical North Indian music highlighting the floral nuances of spring, accompanied by Swapna Chaudhuri, tabla. \$26 to \$30 general; \$22 students and seniors. 510-594-0754, 415-259-8629 or www.gssachdev.com

"THIRD SUNDAYS AT FOUR" — Donation

Organist Rodney Gehrick, March 21, 4 p.m. A performance celebrating the birthday of J.S. Bach. 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-6830 or <http://stjohns.presbychurch.net>

WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT — "All District Music Festival," March 16, 7:30 p.m. A program featuring band, choir and orchestra music from elementary, middle and high school students, with master of ceremonies Robert Calonic, director of bands at the UC Berkeley.

Free. The Richmond Convention Center, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond. 510-234-3825 or www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/music/music031604.htm

DANCE

ASHKENAZ — Steve Lucky and the Rumba Bums with Ms. Carmen Getit, March 12, 9:30 p.m. Swing dance lesson at 8 p.m. with Nick and Shanna. \$13.

Kotoja, March 13, 9:30 p.m. African dance lesson at 9 p.m. with Comfort Mensah. \$13

Cafe Belle Belly Dance Showcase, March 14, 7:30 p.m. Belly dance class at 6:30 p.m. \$9.

Sauce Picante, March 16, 8:30 p.m. Cajun dance lesson at 8 p.m. with Diana Castillo. \$9.

1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-6055 or www.ashkenaz.com

CAFE DE LA PAZ — "Flamenco Wine and Paella," March 13 and March 14, 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Two nights of food, wine and dance with Yaelisa and Caminos Flamencos Company. There will be a three-course dinner with the performance.

\$42 to \$55. 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-0682 or www.cafedelapaz.com

CAL PERFORMANCES — Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, through March 14. The world-renowned dance company performs new works, revivals and revered classics in three separate programs.

Program A: "Heart Song" choreographed by Alonzo King, "Treading" choreographed by Elisa Monte, "Revelations" choreography by Alvin Ailey, and the Bay Area premiere of "Juba" choreographed by Robert Battle. Tuesday, 8 p.m.; Friday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m.

Program B: An Alvin Ailey Classic Program with all dances choreographed by Alvin Ailey and featuring the 1974 "Memoria" and "Night Creature," the 1980 "Phases," the 1988 "Opus M-Shann," "A Song for You" created in 1972, the 1984 "For Bird" with Love," the 1973 "Hidden Rites," the 1971 "Cry" and Ailey's signature 1960 "Revelations." Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m.

Program C: Dwight Rhoden's "Bounty Verses," Judith Jamison's "Hymn" and "The Winter in Lisbon" choreographed by Billy Wilson. Thursday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 8 p.m.

\$32 to \$58. Tuesday through Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

CITY OF OAKLAND AND THE WORLD INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY — "The Art of Disability," March 20, 7 p.m. A showcase for performing artists with disabilities. Performances by members of Axis Dance Company, poet and disability activist Leroy Moore, and Greg Walloch in "White Disabled Talent." A reception follows the performance. Refrain from wearing scented products to this event.

\$12 to \$50. Alice Arts Center, 1428 Alice St., Oakland. 510-654-6346 or www.heternet.net/picks.htm

DANCE WITH ME — "St. Patrick's and Spring Dance," March 20, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Swing, ballroom and Latin dancing to recorded music. Dance lessons to begin the night. Couples and singles welcome.

\$11. Grand Ballroom, Lake Merritt Dance Center, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-523-5587 or www.dance-withme.info

HARLEM SHAKE BULESQUE — "Risque Rhythms: A Tribute to Bulelesque," March 19, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. A cabaret-style performance featuring traditional bulelesque by Harlem Shake Bulelesque. The 7:30 p.m. show is a family-friendly performance and children are welcome; the 9:30 p.m. show is for adults only.

\$15 to \$20. The Oakland Box Theatre, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or 510-083-1116 or www.harlemshakebulelesque.com

"PEOPLE LIKE ME 2004" — March 20, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The 10th anniversary celebration of world dance and music for children and their families presents "It's About Time!" A performance that explores diverse cultural views about time through world dance and live music from Bolivia, Spain,

South Africa, Hawaii, India and North America. Performers include the Chitresh Das Dance Company, Hula Hula Aloha Puhemana O Polynesia, Khumbhula Dance Theater, Sukay and Pachamama, and Yaelisa and Caminos Flamencos.

\$12 general; \$5 children. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 925-798-1300 or www.juliamorgan.org

SHATTUCK DOWN LOW — Live Salsa, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. A live salsa band plays, and there are beginning lessons at 8 p.m. and intermediate ones at 8:45 p.m.

\$10 general; \$5 students. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159 or www.shattuckdownlow.com

STARRY PLOUGH PUB — "Dance Class & Celi," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.

"The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale

For ages 21 and over. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082

OUTDOORS

BAY AREA RAIL TRAILS — A network of trails converted from unused railway corridors.

OHLEONE GREENWAY — A 3.75-mile paved trail converted from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway. Suitable for strollers and skaters. The trail runs under elevated BART tracks from Conlon and Key Streets in El Cerrito to Virginia and Acton Streets in Berkeley. 510-215-4382, 510-528-5759 or 510-644-6566.

SHEPHERD CANYON TRAIL — A three-mile paved trail converted from the Sacramento Northern Rail Line. The tree-lined trail is gently sloping and generally follows Shepherd Canyon Road. Suitable for walkers and cyclists. Begins in Montclair Village behind McCall's Department Store on Medau Place and ends at Paso Robles Drive, Oakland. 510-238-7275

BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL — The Bay Area Ridge Trail, when completed, will be a 400-mile regional trail system that will form a loop around the entire San Francisco Bay region, linking 75 public parks and open spaces to thousands of people and hundreds of communities. Hikes on portions of the trail are available through the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Call for meeting sites.

ALAMEDA/CONTRA COSTA COUNTY — "Tilden and Wildcat Bike Rides," Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. A vigorous ride through Tilden and Wildcat Canyon regional parks. Reservations required. Distance: 15 miles. Elevation gain: 2,000 feet. Difficulty: intermediate. Pace: fast. Meeting place: in front of the North Berkeley BART Station. 510-849-9650

ALAMEDA COUNTY — "Lake Chabot Bike Rides," Thursdays, 6:15 a.m. These rides are for strong beginners and intermediates to build skill, strength and endurance at a non-hammerhead pace. No one will be dropped. Reservations required. Distance: 14 miles. Elevation gain: 1,000 feet. Difficulty: beginner to intermediate. Pace: moderate. Meeting place: Lake Chabot Road at the main entrance to the park. 510-468-3582.

Free. 415-561-2595 or www.ridgerail.org

CRAB COVE VISITOR CENTER — At Crab Cove, you can see live underwater creatures and go into the San Francisco Bay, from land. You can also travel back in time to Alameda's past. The goal is to increase understanding of the environmental importance of San Francisco Bay and the ocean ecosystem.

"Low Tide at the Cove," March 13 and March 14, 11 a.m. to noon. A guided exploration of the marine reserve to find clues about the animals that make the cove their home.

"Whale Watch by Boat," March 13, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Enjoy a morning at sea viewing the migrating gray whales. There may also be seals, sea lions, sea otters, sea stars and bird life. For ages 8 and older. \$36 to \$40 general; \$30 to \$34 seniors and children. Registration required. 510-636-1684.

"Pond Discovery Walk," March 20 and March 21, 11 a.m. to noon. Learn about nesting, feeding and the importance of urban ponds. Learn about the dredging of the pond and restoration efforts.

Free unless otherwise noted; parking fee may be charged. 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-521-6887 or www.ebparks.org

DUNSMUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS HISTORIC ESTATE

— Closed for the winter.

GARIN AND DRY CREEK PIONEER REGIONAL PARKS — Independent nature study is encouraged here, and guided interpretive programs are available through the Coyote Hills Regional Park Visitor Center in Fremont. The Garin Barn Visitor Center is open Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In late summer, the Garin Apple Festival celebrates Garin's apple orchards. The parks also allow picnicking, hiking, horseback riding and fishing.

Free. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. 1320 Garin Ave., Hayward. 510-562-PARK, 510-795-9385, 510-636-1684 or



Dutch treat

THE NETHERLANDS BACH SOCIETY, founded in 1921 as the oldest musical ensemble in Holland devoted to early music, waited a long time to make its first U.S. tour. The group of 12 singers and 11 instrumentalists stops in Berkeley on Saturday with a program titled "Bach and His Musical Inheritance," in addition to music by the Baroque master, the ensemble's guest recorder virtuoso Marion Verbruggen, will perform the of his fellow Johanns — Schelle and Kuhnau — plus music by Dietrich Buxtehude. The Netherlands Bach Society performs Saturday at First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Tickets are \$38. Contact 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

www.ebparks.org/parks/garin.htm

GREENBELT ALIANCE OUTINGS

A series of hikes, bike rides and events sponsored by Greenbelt Alliance, the Bay Area's non-profit land conservation and urban planning organization. Call for meeting places. Reservations required for all trips.

ALAMEDA COUNTY — "Sunol's Little Yosemite," March 20, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This is not quite the Sierras, but it is a beautiful gorge with a rushing creek and towering rock formations. Hard to believe it is only 35 minutes from San Jose. This hike in the Sunol Wilderness near Fremont goes through oak woodlands and grasslands with wildflowers and stunning vistas. Distance: three miles. Difficulty: moderate. Elevation gain: less than 1,000 feet.

Free. 415-255-3233

KENNEDY GROVE REGIONAL RECREATION AREA

The 95-acre park contains picnic areas, horseshoe pits and volleyball courts among its grove of aromatic eucalyptus trees \$4 parking. Through March: daily, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante. 510-223-7840 or www.ebparks.org

OAKLAND ZOO

The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop as well as the animals in site-specific exhibits, which allow them to roam freely. Included are "The African Savanna," with its two huge mixed-animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits; the Mahai Pa Tombo (Place of the Elephant) with African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world; "Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion Country," a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for African lions; "Footprints from the Past," an anthropology exhibit showcasing four million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first hominids to emerge from the African savanna; "Sun Bear Exhibit," a state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears; and Siamese Island, a state-of-the-art, barrier-free area that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat.

EXHIBIT — "Mountain Lions!" ongoing.

An exhibit designed to educate people about the mountain lion, its

physiology, and history, and the myths that

surround these mammals. In addition

film titled "Cougar Eaters" by the

Discovery Channel. At the Education

Center. Open daily during zoo hours

with regular zoo admission.

SPECIAL EVENTS

— "Beasts"

March 13 and March 19 and March 21

for youth ages 6 to 18 and their

chaperones to spend the day at the

Oakland Zoo and get a sense of

what goes on there after hours.

Close for the evening. All

Zoo specialist will lead the

special evening tour of the

then campers can snuggle

the comfort of the Education

Reservations required. \$10

Sunday, 510-632-9525, or

St. Patrick's Day. March 17

"Birds for anyone wanting to

Rides, Bagels and Bino

20, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

bird enthusiasts for a

continental breakfast on

tion to discover the world

in and around the Oakland

binoculars and a bird

shoes comfortable for

ations required. 510-632-

142

Earth Watch Lecture and

March 21, 4 p.m. "Wildlife

vation biologist William

will discuss his latest

wildlife trail ecology and

the efficient wildlife com

can West. 4 p.m. Meet

4:30 p.m. lecture. At the

Center for Science and

Reservations required. \$10

ext. 142.

"Family Sunday Safari"

March 28. Enjoy a fun and

tional experience in the

environment of the Oakland

an evening with the

camp out in the Zoo

overnight. Reservations

urday, 6 p.m. to Sunday

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"Eggs-Cellent Eggs,"

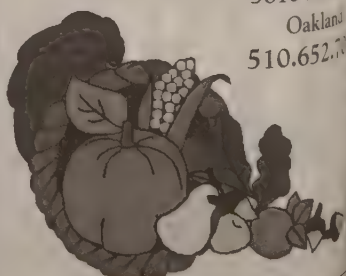
to noon. Learn about

kinds of eggs and meet

See EVENTS, page

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Wasted Days & rockin' nights

ANYONE WHO DOUBTS that Northern California has an impressive country-rock contingent should visit the Ivy Room in Albany tonight. That's when Bay Area singer-songwriter and guitarist Dave Gleason and his band Wasted Days debut their new album, "Midnight, California." Guests for the CD release celebration include pedal steel whiz Joe Goldmark and guitarist/mandolinist Michael Montalto (of the East Bay band Red Meat). Opening the show is San Francisco "outlaw country" band the Plain High Drifters. The concert kicks off at 9:30 p.m. at the Ivy Room, San Pablo and Solano avenues, Albany. Tickets are \$7. Contact 510-524-9220 or www.ivyroom.com.

Logan Health Center/Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Alameda County School-Based Health Center Coalition and the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. Free. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 1221 Oak St., Fifth Floor, Oakland. 510-476-0400, ext. 5, or www.tvhc.org

ALBATROSS PUB — Pastels by Berkeley artist Michelle Manning, through March 31. Free. Sunday through Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.; Wednesday through Saturday, 4:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473 or www.albatrosspub.com.

ARDENCY GALLERY — Constance Terrell, open-ended. An exhibit of fabric arts by the artist. Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 255 Fourth St., Oakland. 510-836-0831

BERKELEY ART CENTER — "The 12th Annual Berkeley Youth Arts Festival," through April 3. Celebrating the creative accomplishments of Berkeley Unified School District students and teachers, the festival includes paintings, drawings, collages, sculptures, photography, mixed-media works and multimedia projects by students in grades K-8. Also poetry readings, dance, music recitals and drama. **PERFORMANCES** — Admission is free "Berkeley Arts Magnet Percussion," March 13, 3 p.m. Directed by Kelle. "Sean Powers' Shadow Puppets," March 20, 2 p.m. Stories from around the world.

"Dance and Rhythm of India," March 20, 4 p.m. A performance by students from Thousand Oaks Elementary and the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, directed by Purnima Jha. **WEEKEND WORKSHOPS** — Registration required. 510-644-6893. \$5 to \$10

"Pop Art Superstar," March 13, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. In a workshop for ages 12 to 17, participants will make a three-color silk screen print in the style of Andy Warhol using digital photography and paper stencils. Bring a light-color T-shirt or pillowcase to print on.

"Shadow Puppets," March 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring an old cereal box and learn how to make shadow puppets from reused materials. There will be a performance after the workshop. For all ages

Free. Wednesday-Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-644-6893 or www.berkeleyartcenter.org

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS — "Art and Community Mural Exhibition," March 17 through March 31. Celebrating Alameda County's Art is Education Month, an exhibition of public art created by CCA faculty member Keith Thomas, CCA students and youth from Far West School.

Free. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Exterior wall, Oakland campus, 5212 Broadway, Oakland. 510-594-3763 or www.cca.edu/capl.

EAST BAY WOMEN ARTISTS — "Inspired," through March 28. An exhibit of paintings, mixed media, photography and earthscapes by various



Love and harmonies

FOLK SINGER-SONGWRITERS Green and Root have been busy lately. Partners onstage and off, the two were wed at San Francisco's City Hall on Feb. 13 (hey, they beat Rosie O'Donnell to the punch by two weeks), and recently put the finishing touches on a new CD, "Down That Road." The East Bay duo will showcase their new album (and probably share a few wedding anecdotes) when they take the stage Wednesday at the Freight & Salvage. Green and Root perform 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Freight, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. Tickets are \$15.50 advance/\$16.50 door. Contact 510-548-1761 or www.thefreight.org.

artists

Free. Daily, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Royal Ground Gallery, 2058 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-339-0348.

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION — "Richard Meier: Jubilee Church," through June 15. An exhibition of photographs, plans and drawings of Richard Meier's prize-winning new Jubilee Church in Rome. At the Pacific School of Religion Chapel.

Reception and Lecture, March 18, 4 p.m. Architect Richard Meier will give a lecture about his new exhibit at 5:30 p.m. In the Hewlett Library. 510-649-2540.

"Friends and Neighbors of the GTU,"

through March 2. In the Bade Museum. (707) 481-3724

Free. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley 510-649-2500 or www.gtu.edu

HALL OF PIONEERS GALLERY — "Oakland Chinatown Pioneers," ongoing. Twelve showcases each focusing on historic leaders and personalities of the community.

Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Chinese Garden Building, 275 Seventh St., Oakland. 510-530-4590

KALA ART INSTITUTE — "The Drawing Room," through March 25. An exhibit of drawings by various artists. Free. Tuesday through Friday, noon to

5:30 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4:30 p.m. Print Studio, Media Center Gallery, 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977 or www.kala.org

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER — CAFE — Antonio Sanchez, through March 30. An exhibit of works by the artist

LOBBY — Keith Brown, through March 30. An exhibit of artistic documents from the people and places of 21st-century Cuba

THEATER — James Weeks, through April 30. An exhibit of photographs by the artist

Free. Call for times. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapenna.org

RICHMOND ART CENTER — "The Art of Living Black 2004," closing March 20. The eighth annual Bay Area Black Artists Exhibition featuring the work of 90 artists. In the Main Gallery

"A Conversation in Wood and Metal," closing March 20. An exhibit of silver hollowware works by Laurie Marson and studio furniture by woodworker Michael Cullen. In the South Gallery

"Buddha Code," closing March 20. An exhibit of ceramic characters created by Robert Milnes, director of San Jose State University's School of Art and Design. In the West Gallery

"Learned Behavior," closing March 20. A group exhibition of artworks by instructors in the center's on-site and off-site programs. In the Community Gallery

"Rosie the Riveter," closing March 20. An exhibit of Community Works' photo portraits featuring local "Rosies" as well as interviews, photographs and the history of "Rosie the Riveter," which describes the work of women in the shipyards during World War II. In the Community Gallery

SPECIAL EVENT — "The Art of Living Black," March 20, 2 p.m. An artist talk in conjunction with the current exhibit "The Art of Living Black 2004."

Free. Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 4:30 p.m. 2540 Barrett Ave., Civic Center Plaza, Richmond. 510-620-6772 or www.richmondartcenter.org

GENERAL

LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE — EXHIBITS — "Approaching Chaos," through May 24. An exhibit of striking images that explore classical and wave chaos by Harvard physicist E.J. Heller who transforms mathematical algorithms into images offering a glimpse into the mysterious world of quantum physics

SPECIAL EVENT — "Robotics," March 13, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. While geologic robots explore Mars, take a look at a line of robots that can be made for Earth

\$8.50 general; \$6.50 seniors, students, disabled, and youths ages 5 to 18; \$4.50 children ages 3 to 4; free children ages 2 and younger. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Centennial Drive, UC Berkeley. 510-642-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu

CODY'S BOOKSTORES — TELEGRAPH AVENUE — Zac Unger, March 15. The author discusses "Working Fire: The Making of an Accidental Fireman"

Neely Tucker, March 16. The author discusses "Love in the Driest Season: A Family Memoir"

Chang-Rae Lee, March 17. The author discusses his new novel "Alotf."

David K. Shipley, March 18. The author discusses "The Working Poor: Invisible in America."

Edwidge Danticat, March 19. The author discusses "The Dew Breaker."

POETRY AT CODY'S — 7:30 p.m. at Telegraph Avenue. \$2 donation requested

March 14: Deborah Major and Marc Barmuthi Joseph

March 21: Gloria Frym and Ann Joslin Williams

Free. Readings at 7:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise. 2454 Telegraph Ave. 510-845-7852

FOURTH STREET — Debra Ginsberg, March 18. The author discusses "About My Sisters."

Free. Readings at 7 p.m. unless noted otherwise. 1730 Fourth St. 510-559-9500

SPECIAL EVENT — Karen Armstrong, March 18, 7:30 p.m. The author discusses "The Spiral Staircase: My Climb Out Of Darkness." At the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way \$10

Obituaries and In Memoriam

Clifford Brown Gaunt

Clifford Brown Gaunt passed away in South San Francisco on March 5, 2004. Age 77 years. Loving husband of Cassandra Jane Gaunt of San Bruno. Beloved father of Sandra M. Gaunt of Berkeley and Ann E. Gaunt of Pilot Hill, Ca. Dear grandfather of Courtney L. Gaunt. He is survived by his uncle Frank (Lois) Brown of Columbia, Ca.; his aunt Sarah Brown of Santa Cruz and many loving friends and family.

Clifford was born in Millbrae and lived in San Mateo County his entire life. He graduated with a B.A. and an M.A. from San Francisco State University. A teacher for 31 years, he taught math and science at Ben Franklin Middle School and Lincoln High School in San Francisco. He served as a dental assistant in the U.S. Army during WWII in Japan. Clifford was a member of the AARP and enjoyed growing orchids, he had an amassing an impressive collection.

Friends are invited to attend a graveside service at the Shiloh District Cemetery, 7130 Windsor Rd., Windsor, CA, on Saturday, March 13, 2004 at 2:00pm. Visitation will be held at Daniels Chapel of the Roses, 1225 Sonoma Ave., Santa Rosa, from 12:30pm

Daniels Chapel of the Rose Funeral Home and Crematory 707-525-3730

Robert Quick

Robert Quick of Albany passed away at age 72 on March 4, 2004. Robert was born July 9, 1932 in Oakland.

Widowed husband of his wife Ella; father of Mike Quick; father-in-law of Chris Quick; devoted grandfather of Greg and Melissa Quick; caring brother of Dale Quick; brother-in-law of Marsha Quick and Lucy Beare; beloved son of the late Violette and Lloyd Quick; best friend of Jerry Johnson

Bob served in the Air Force during the Korean War. He was a member of the Moose Lodge #550, and the El Cerrito Eagle's. He was best known for being the owner (along with his late wife, Ella) of "QUICKS LITTLE ALASKA" on San Pablo Ave.

Family and Friends are invited to attend the viewing on March 11 between 7-10pm, at the Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. Crypt-side service will be held on Friday March 12, at the adjacent Mountain View Cemetery at 1pm.

WHERE WE LIVE: 24 HOURS IN EL CERRITO & KENSINGTON

PHOTO EXHIBIT
Opening March 9
El Cerrito Community Center
7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito

In February, a team of award-winning Times photo-journalists converged upon El Cerrito and Kensington to document one day – 24 contiguous hours – in both cities.

Many of these photos are featured in a special section published in the Contra Costa Times on March 6.

For this exhibit, we asked each photographer to select some of his/her favorite shots, whether or not they were printed in the section.

Photographers:

Dean Coppola	Bob Larson	Bob Pepping
Mark DuFrene	Sherry LaVars	Kristopher Skinner
Joanna Jhanda	Karl Mondon	Tue Nam Ton

We invite you to view these stunning photographs at the El Cerrito Community Center through the month of March.

Our thanks to the El Cerrito Community Center for hosting this exhibit.

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

- Nonfiction**
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 2. "American Dynasty," by Kevin Phillips. (Viking, \$25.95.)
 3. "The Price of Loyalty," by Ron Suskind. (Simon & Schuster, \$26.)
 4. "Lies & the Lying Liars Who Tell Them," by Al Franken. (Dutton, \$24.95.)
 5. "Skeletons on the Zahara," by Dean King. (Little Brown, \$24.95.)
 6. "The Proper Care and Feeding of Husbands," by Dr. Laura Schlessinger. HarperCollins, \$24.95.)
 7. "The Fabric of the Cosmos," by Brian Greene. (Knopf, \$28.95.)
 8. "Perfectly Legal," by David Cay Johnston. (Portfolio, \$25.95.)
 9. "Minds Wide Open," by Steven Johnson. (Scribner, \$25.)
 10. "The Sorrows of Empire," by Chalmers Johnson. (Metropolitan, \$25.)
- Trade paperback fiction**
1. "Middlesex," by Jeffrey Eugenides. (Picador, \$15.)
 2. "The Secret Life of Bees," by Sue Monk Kidd. (Penguin, \$14.)
 3. "Life of Pi," by Yann Martel. (Har-

- vest, \$14.)
 4. "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency," by Alexander McCall Smith. (Anchor, \$11.95.)
 5. "The Master Butchers Singing Club," by Louise Erdrich. (Penguin, \$13.95.)
 6. "The Piano Tuner," by Daniel Philippe Mason. (Vintage, \$14.)
 7. "Pattern Recognition," by William Gibson. (Berkley, \$14.)
 8. "The Dante Club," by Matthew Pearl. (Random House, \$13.95.)
 9. "Drop City," by T.C. Boyle. (Penguin, \$14.)
 10. "Three Junes," by Julia Glass. (Anchor, \$14.)
- Trade paperback nonfiction**
1. "Reading Lolita in Tehran," by Azar Nafisi. (Random House, \$13.95.)
 2. "The Devil in the White City," by Eric Larson. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
 3. "1,000 Places to See Before You Die," by Patricia Schultz. (Workman, \$18.95.)
 4. "What Should I Do With My Life?" by Po Bronson. (Random House,

Jamison

FROM PAGE C12

was Ailey who would become her mentor and she his muse. She joined his then 7-year-old company in 1965 and quickly became a leading dancer, creating roles in dozens of works. Possibly her most memorable was the Ailey solo "Cry," an excerpt of which the company will perform at Zellerbach Hall this week.

"Judy was Herculean," remembers King. "I've never seen anyone with the presence of Judith Jamison. It was unforgettable."

That intensity and intelligence is still evident in her choreography, as well as in her leadership of the company. Renee Robinson, a 23-year veteran of the Alvin Ailey dance company describes Jamison as demanding in the most positive sense.

"I feel very lucky and blessed to be a part of her vision and to be caught up in her energy," she says.

"I think each generation of dancers informs a work differently, and they're supposed to," says Jamison. "I think you don't forget, which is the premise of this company. That you honor the past by valuing its integrity and you create a future by always re-generating it."

"As the dancers change," Robinson says, "the message is still the same."

A generous spirit

And the message of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater continues to resonate. It's hard to argue with the company's contention that it is the most widely seen dance troupe in the world. Having performed for 19 million people in 68 countries on every continent except Antarctica, the company has some of the hardest working dancers in the business.

"The dancers are so magnificent, with impeccable technique," notes King. "But with Ailey — at Judy's insistence — always there is a magnetism of spirit that emanates from their bodies. I think that there's a generosity that comes from them that is unique to that company as a whole. In other companies you may find that in individuals, but with the Ailey company, they are all givers."

That generosity of spirit isn't just limited to the stage, either. Jamison is a firm believer in Alvin Ailey's guiding principle that dance is for everyone. Under her supervision, the Ailey School has expanded to some 3,500 students, and the company partners each year with local community organizations in seven cities from Kansas City to Berkeley to bring dance to inner-city kids.

In the fall, the troupe will open the doors on its brand-new 77,000-square-foot, eight-story home in midtown Manhattan, complete with office space, costume shop and 12 studios — two of which can be merged to form a theater. A \$69.5 million capital campaign to raise money for the building and an endowment fund far exceeded its goals through contributions large and small, a fact of which Jamison is especially proud.

"From people that work in development to administration to people in the wardrobe, everyone has given money for this building. I'm not kidding, everyone," she says.

"We're very happy about this, very proud. You know this is our 45th anniversary? That's an amazing feat for any modern dance company."

EXHIBITS

AMERICAN MUSEUM AND HISTORY — HAMLCO Presents: New Works in Art, through May 1. An exhibit by artists Milton and Wynne Muirde including oil paintings and oil paintings. Resistance: Maroon Culture in the Americas, ongoing. An interactive historical drawings and a timeline, contemporary art and a selection of ceremonial daily life objects. Road to Freedom: The African American, 1775-1900, on exhibit focusing on the role of African descent played in the development and settlement of the Americas of California. Through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland. (510) 510-5100.

MUSEUM — The museum's permanent collection of Alameda County artists and their works. The gallery shows local Alameda artists and students, as well as souvenirs and videos about the rich history of Alameda County. Through Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alameda Ave., Alameda. 510-510-5100.

MUSEUM OF ART — A museum in the art and history. The collection, which is in the museum's Jack B. Kay branch, has been in the material in the Alameda County Museum building since the original museum. Through Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1034 Broadway, Alameda. 510-763-0141.

STATE MODEL RAILROAD — CLOSED FOR THE WINTER. Through Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1034 Broadway, Alameda. 510-763-0141.

HEALTH — EXHIBITS — "Our Heart" ongoing. An exhibit on heart health. "Our Heart" ongoing. This exhibit models for making balanced decisions for calculating health risks are burned. "Our Heart" ongoing. HUSBANDS, ongoing. Husbands and models of the organs allow visitors to see inside of their bodies. "Our Heart" ongoing. HUSBANDS, ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous to detect and prevent cancer. "Our Heart" ongoing. HUSBANDS, ongoing. Free Puppet Show, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE VILLAGE — A science museum with an African-American focus promoting science education and awareness for the underrepresented. The science village chronicles the technical achievements of people of African descent from ancient times to present. There are computer classes at the Internet Cafe, and science education activities and seminars. There is also a resource library with a collection of books, periodicals and videotapes. \$6 general; \$4 children ages 6 to 18. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 630 20th St., Oakland. 510-893-6426 or www.ncalif-blackengineers.org.

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA — "In Our Own Voice: The Making of a Korean Community," through Nov. 28. An installation that includes photographs, historical artifacts, a video presentation and an illustrated timeline. "Henry J. Kaiser: Think Big," through Aug. 29. An exhibit of artifacts and memorabilia highlighting the life of entrepreneur Henry J. Kaiser. There will be a re-creation of a maternity ward with Kaiser innovations and other Kaiser inventions. "Portrait of an Estuary: San Francisco Bay," closing March 14. An exhibit of color photographs by David Sanger that celebrates the beauty and evolving ecology of San Francisco Bay. Text panels by John Hart accompany the photos. "The Art of David Ireland: The Way Things Are," closing March 14. An exhibit of 80 works created by the West Coast artist between 1972 and 2002 including four large-scale installations, 30 sculptures and 47 two-dimensional pieces. "Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

4 p.m. Explore the museum's collection on videotapes in the History Department Library. Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Art by a Carte, ongoing. Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with museum admission. SPECIAL EVENTS — "Youth Science Explorations Field Trip: Hands-on Ecological Restoration," March 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Work on a native plant restoration project at Shoreline Park. Dress for dirt. For ages 12 to 16. Gloves, tools and snacks provided. Reservations required. 510-238-3818. "Epicenter: San Francisco Bay Area Art Now," March 14, 2 p.m. The book's authors, as well as artists and the chief curator of the Oakland Museum will discuss current topics impacting the arts. Free. "The New Kingdoms of Life," March 18, 12:30 p.m. Tilden Park naturalist Alan Kaplan will talk about how DNA has changed assumptions about plant and animal classification. Free. "Tour of Conservation Lab," March 20, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Conservator John Burke will lead a tour of the museum's Conservation Lab. Reservations required. 510-637-0364. "Family Explorations: Amazing Insects!" March 21, noon to 4 p.m. Discover the world of insects with a hands-on adventure. Build an insect robot, sample edible insects and create butterfly antennae to wear home. Free with museum admission. \$8 general; \$5 seniors and students; free children ages 5 and under; free to all on the second Sunday of the month. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200 or www.museumca.org.

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Arts & Leisure

Friday, March 12, 2004



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

Local TV ratings spin

PRESS RELEASES from the local TV stations about their February sweeps Nielsen news ratings are an exercise in pure spin.

As one example, KTVU notes that it's still top-rated in late local news at 10, which is true, as is the fact that the award-winning "10:00 News" gets much higher ratings than its Fox lead-in shows. It's up to competing stations to helpfully point out that year to year, "The 10:00 News" ratings are off a sizeable 14 percent. Likewise, Channel 2's "Mornings at 2" still wins most mornings. But here again, it's up to the competition to note that "MO-2" suffered double-digit losses in audience share since February 2003.

Example two: KRON, which has dropped two newscasts in the past year (no mention of that in its release) trumpets the fact that Channel 4's 9:00 newscast is now the number-two late-night local newscast in the Bay Area. True, and thanks, no doubt, to the healthy ratings of "Dr. Phil," which precedes that newscast at 8. No mention of the fact that KRON news finished dead last at 11 p.m. in February, a time period Channel 4 used to routinely win when it had NBC programming.

Example three: Local CBS affiliate KPX announces it has again won the 11 p.m. Nielsen in its release. But no mention that KGO-TV has crept into a virtual dead heat at 11, or that Channel 7 has gained more audience share this past year at 11 than Channel 5. But KTVU's press release notes that Channel 5 loses a big chunk of the audience at 11 p.m. that red-hot CBS delivers.

And NBC affiliate KNTV's local news ratings lag behind in most time periods — especially at 5 and 6 p.m., which KGO-TV still dominates. (KTVU's and KNTV's newscasts are in a tight battle for last place at 6). But here again, another station's release points out that while Channel 7's Pete Wilson-led newscast wins at 6 p.m., KGO's had a big year-to-year audience-share loss.

Channel 11 also loses a whopping 31 percent of the audience parent network NBC delivers at 11 p.m. The San Jose station's newscasts, and especially its anchors, are still seen as lightweights by many Bay Area news viewers.

By the way, that last sentence — and the next — come from a critic who's a heavy TV news viewer, not a press release. Watching KNTV's newscasts is still like watching a medium-market newscast in, say, Colorado Springs.

ALL LACI, ALL THE TIME? For the past year, Channel 2 reporter Ted Rowlands has more or less lived in Modesto. He's been on the Laci Peterson story virtually full-time. To give him his due, Rowlands has done a pretty good job on the vastly overplayed story. Channel 2 staffers learned recently Rowlands would be leaving. He's been snapped up by CNN. And how much play does CNN intend to give the Scott Peterson trial?

KTVU news director Ed Chapuis told his staff in a farewell memo: "Ted will be camping out in Redwood City covering the Laci Peterson murder trial for CNN for the next six months."

BOARD TO TEARS? Most stories about Disney's embattled CEO Mike Eisner surviving an attempted ouster neglected to mention that Eisner somehow had managed to get both his architect and his kid's teacher on the Disney board. A recent NPR report on shareholders' rising anger with too-compliant corporate boards also turned up this little-known, mind-boggling board appointment: O.J. Simpson was once on the Audit Committee of Infinity Broadcasting's board. That's right, the audit committee. Insert your own joke here.

Reach Bill Mann at News-mann@sonic.net



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
THE ALVIN AILEY
American Dance Theater troupe will perform "Hymn" — a tribute co-created by the company's artistic director, Judith Jamison, below, as a tribute to the late Alvin Ailey — during a three-program performance this week at Zellerbach Hall.

Ailey dancers meet director's challenge

Jamison's vitality a source of inspiration

By Mary Ellen Hunt

FOR MANY, the famously statuesque and serenely confident Judith Jamison will always be emblematic of the beloved modern dance institution, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which has returned for its annual season at Berkeley's Cal Performances.

Throughout her 40-year career as a dancer, choreographer and artistic director, she has inspired generations of dancers and artists to give their best and to meet the high standards and expectations that she sets. And the energetic, fiercely intelligent Jamison — a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts, among many other awards — remains the driving force behind the success of the Alvin Ailey troupe, which she has led since the death of the company's namesake founder in 1989.

Given all of that, she might seem like a remote, unapproachable icon, but in reality, she is as warm and genial as her

PROFILE

■ **WHO:** Judith Jamison, artistic director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

■ **WHAT:** Program A: "Heart Song," "Treading," "Juba," "Revelations"; Program B: Ailey classics, including excerpts from "Night Creature," "Cry" and "Revelations"; Program C: "Bounty Verses," "Hymn," "The Winter in Lisbon"

■ **WHERE:** Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue

■ **WHEN:** through Sunday

■ **HOW MUCH:** \$32-\$58

■ **CONTACT:** 510-642-9988, www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

smile, with a quick sense of humor and a down-to-earth way of setting you at ease.

In a recent phone interview from New York, Jamison spoke animatedly and fondly about the company that she has nurtured. She can't keep the enthusiasm from her voice as she talks about distinctions between choreographers, such as LINES Contemporary Ballet's Alonzo King and

former Ailey dancers Dwight Rhoden and Robert Battle, all of whom have West Coast premieres during the company's Berkeley season.

"Dwight has the most fast-forward movement I have ever seen," she says with relish. "It leaves you quite breathless once it's over. There's a certain unique way of twisting, with a modern classical base. Whereas Alonzo moves with that classical base, but it's torqued. You recognize that arabesque, but it's *ju-ust* askew. It's quite a remarkable look at the ballet vocabulary through a different eye and a different sensibility that I love."

Like Ailey before her, Jamison is keen on fostering fresh choreography from both new and veteran dance-makers, offering them the chance to work with one of the world's strongest and most versatile dance troupes. As a result, Alvin Ailey has become one of the few modern dance companies to transcend the single-auteur formula, with a repertoire of 180 ballets of wide-ranging styles.

King, who was asked by Ailey himself to join the company,



Jamison

observes that Jamison is remarkably open to fresh ideas, and allows her choreographers unusual freedom.

"Judy says, 'When I invite a choreographer in, it is their point of view that I want them to express in this company,'" he notes. "And she gives you entree to whatever dancers you want to use, for how you see your vision."

Intensity, intelligence

Born in Philadelphia in 1943, Jamison came to dance at the age of 6. By her early 20s, she had moved to New York and already caught the eye of choreographer Agnes de Mille, but it

See JAMISON, Page C11

Irish accordionist offers lively pick-me-up

■ The cure for too much St. Patrick's Day is an intimate concert in Berkeley the day after

By Brian Kluepfel

I remember St. Patrick's Day of 2003. Unfortunately, I also remember the next morning. This year, I plan to spend the day after St. Patrick's in a quieter way. Still celebrating with some great Irish music, but in an intimate venue, away from the beer and smoky pubs. (Note to local publicans: don't worry, I'll be back).

Next Thursday, Boaz Accordions of Berkeley brings Andrew MacNamara of East Clare, Ireland to its little salon room for a unique sort of concert experience.

MacNamara was raised in Tulla, and there must be something in the nearby rivers and lakes that produces other than salmon and trout — it also produces accordionists, particularly in the MacNamara clan. Grandmother Minnie played the concertina, and handed that talent (quite literally) down to Andrew's sister Mary, who's gone on to win All Ireland trophies on the wee instrument.

Andrew, influenced by the late Joe Cooley, opted for the two-row button box accordion, and has played it around the world, first with



BUTTON ACCORDION PLAYER Andrew MacNamara still looks to his home in East Clare for musical inspiration — he'll share tunes and stories the day after St. Patrick's Day in Berkeley.

the Tulla Ceili Band (also featuring fiddling legend Martin Hayes) and then Skylark.

Boaz Accordions are happy to host the Irishman, who'll also be holding a button-box workshop at the West Berkeley store on Saturday.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Button accordion and guitar concert featuring Andrew MacNamara of County Clare, Ireland

WHERE: Boaz Accordions, 1041 Folger Avenue, Berkeley (near Ashby/San Pablo)

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 18

TICKETS: \$10 general \$7 seniors

INFORMATION: 510-845-1429 or www.boazaccordions.com. Limited seating; reservations strongly recommended.

"It strikes me that he's not afraid to slow a tune down so you can hear a beautiful melody," remarks Judy Rubin of Boaz. She also commented on the condition of his Paolo Soprani button box, one that's certainly been through the wars along with Andrew. He also brings a well-known Irish quality to the stage. "He's quite a storyteller with a great self-deprecating sense of humor," said Rubin.

A neighbor of MacNamara's was more resolute in his praise, with a quintessential Irish turn of phrase. "That music would put a cow out of a trench without a rope," Sean Boland once said when listening to MacNamara.

See CONCERT, Page C11

'Ghosts' ex complex

B RITISH RESEMBLANCE! Not if you're a drama critic. The London Daily Telegraph's sen's tardy-arriving performance of "Ghosts" premiered in 1891. Just say he didn't.

This mass of tism, coarseness and absolutely loathsome, fetid ... crapulous and Such apologetic ing seems especially today, considering it at the same denou now playing through Berkeley Rep's Roa 2015 Addison St.,

The outburst about Victorian dirty laundry than the playwright's nate: ghosts of past locked in prissy to face ugly truth haunt their lives to

The Rep's "Ghosts" sorbing look at its formed for the moe measured rectitude ningly mounted in a cluttered set.

Better explain the most part" caveat. U the end of its two unfolds in guarded tone seems right as skirts such scarcely pered closet secrets infidelity and social

Then as pretense he collapse, "Ghosts" binged (as do the m mother and son) ally on the floor, with melodrama. It strains lished air of circum

The widow Abing Ellen McLaughlin, outward shell of her ceived "ideal" manna plans a memorial to b band — in life, a real

Their son, Oswald Duffield), comes ho Paris for the dedicat with what turns out syphilis, he's still a father and takes a st hired girl, Regina (E man). Unbeknownst they're already far blood ties than the physical intimacy

Haunted by family could destroy her for happiness, the man admit the truth about band's dalliance or travesty of respect

Brian Keith Reginald's rugged factu Regina's Carpenter Pastor Manders, compier cast. Jonathan artistic director of the Shakespeare Theatre Berkeley Rep direct

Neil Patel's sets w fly space of the Rod stage. The agreeab diminish the actors the feeling of an uppe ety, trapped in an mood of suffocating Zielinski's lighting Neville's costuming and authentic, giving tion its air of artistic

It's been a century quarter since Ibsen threw open the show air and light into the mantic and stilled of the 19th century.

The "one of the o o 21st century Sorel's, for some too far in trivial w thetic football hall puerile use of bad w air by a shock-joc

But have we a general changed a original "Ghosts" London critic was in recent weeks egotism, coarsene

How many feel old personal reg bottled and come open mental curb "crapulous que

That's the ques raises but which us can answer.

Reach Jack Tuck at jtucker@octimes.com 262-2768.

Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

Friday, March 12, 2004

Section D

ing supplement to The Montclair, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

SHELLE KREBS
Freewheeling

engineer
nominated for
ernment post

MOTOR MATTERS

able. I now work for 54
General Motors en-
Talbot told me after the
announced that he was
three individuals nominated
George W. Bush to
his Architectural and Trans-
Barriers Compliance Ac-
ord.
English, wheelchair-
Talbot, and the 12-member
serves on, will work with
agencies that deal with the
Disabilities Act to
access to buildings and
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one of 12 public voices for
million Americans with dis-
and their families," Talbot

quality affects more than the
The family is included.
areas and feel a tremendous
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ment is as accessible as

my personal heroes in
industry for his boundless
and passion, Talbot was
and from the waist down af-
accident. He has been
within GM, in Detroit
industry as an advocate
the disabled with ac-
ompany.
GM Mobility, part of
vehicles depart-
involved in the design
ingering of vehicles and

Freewheeling, Page D2



MOTOR MATTERS

THE 2005 CHRYSLER 300 offers four models including one with a V8 HEMI engine. This 300C provided exceptional comfort, a quiet ride and excellent maneuverability.

Daimler's influence seen in Chrysler 300 sedan

MOTOR MATTERS

The 1998 merger of Daimler with Chrysler is finally bearing fruit with the 300 sedan of 2005. Mercedes-Benz quality and Chrysler innovation are obvious throughout.

Mike Perugi, brand manager for Chrysler premium vehicles, told me the 300 is the first to be built from concept since the merger.

He explained how Daimler doggedly demanded the precision of fit and function of every part before advancing to the next stage.

That formula, along with Chrysler's design, results in a high

quality automobile.

Chrysler has been on a roll with numerous all-new products, but this is the first large sedan with rear-wheel drive. It has a powerful engine, handles like a dream, is very quiet and stylish.

The massive strength of the grille suggests two things: power and performance. Instead of the cab-forward look of Chrysler cars of old, the 300 sedans have longer hoods.

The lines flow toward a big rear end that provides plenty of trunk storage space and includes the added thoughtfulness of a net to

TOM KEANE
Keane on Wheels

keep the shopping bags near the trunk opening.

There are four models. The 300 with a 190-horsepower V6 engine costing \$23,595; the 300 Touring and 300 Limited, each with a 250-horsepower V6 starting at \$27,395; and the 300C with a 340-horsepower V8-HEMI engine costing \$32,995.

Prices include destination charges and, as the price increases, more content is included.

I drove the other cars but enjoyed the 300C the most for two reasons: It's loaded with comforts and has a HEMI engine.

Basically the engine is smooth and quiet, but step on the accelerator and the roar is as thrilling as the acceleration.

Handling is another area where the 300 shines, partially due to rear-wheel drive.

Formerly, rear-wheel drive cars slipped in the snow, but with Elec-

tronic Stability Program and All-Speed Traction Control, slipping is not a problem. (All-wheel drive is available.)

What I experienced was a car that handled with precision and provided exceptional comfort, a quiet ride and excellent maneuverability.

The interior noise level is very low; no air-rush or tire noise. The entire ambience of this five-passenger sedan is luxurious and inviting.

See KEANE, Page D2

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Restored 1940 Plymouth convertible declared authentic by father

MOTOR MATTERS

After Barbara Griner acquired a 1940 Plymouth her father, Howard Green, told her how wonderful his own 1940 Plymouth was back when it was new. The difference was that his was a sedate four-door sedan and hers is a sporty convertible.

While she was still a gleam in her father's eye, he bought his Plymouth sedan. That car, fondly remembered, was long gone by the time his daughter, Barbara, arrived on the scene.

In the summer of 1980, Griner and her husband went to nearby College Park, Md. to investigate the condition of a 1940 Plymouth that was offered for sale. She had been wanting an antique car that was new enough to be fun to drive but old enough to have some style.

At first glance, she told her husband, "That's the one." It wasn't too old or too new; it was just right. It was a perfect fit then, and remains a perfect fit to this day. The Plymouth was purchased and she took it to her Rockville, Md. home.

Chrysler Corp. built 6,986 Plymouth DeLuxe convertibles in 1940, each of the 3,049-pound cars rode on a 117-inch wheelbase. Under the two-piece hood — which opens from either side — is a 201-cubic-inch, inline six-cylinder engine that generates 84 horsepower.

The sporty little Plymouth convertible carried a \$950 price tag in pre-World War II America. A comparable Ford convertible cost \$849 while a Chevrolet ragtop would set the buyer back \$899.

When she bought the car, it was wearing one of the official eight colors offered on 1940 Plymouths — amphibian green.

VERN PARKER

Classic Classics

The cute convertible has been a hit wherever Griner steers it with its shoulder-wide steering wheel. The wheel is adorned with a chrome-plated 360-degree horn ring.

Neither the speedometer in front of the driver nor the clock at the other end of the dashboard in the glove compartment door has hands to indicate speed or time. Instead, both instruments feature indicators on rotating rings, quite an innovation 64 years ago.

Plymouth did the unusual by offering a push-button radio in a vertical position in the chrome-laden dashboard, although the juxtaposition to the driver is very convenient.

A set of 6.00x16-inch wide white sidewall Firestone tires support the car, as well as provide the grip to stop. From the beginning, all Chrysler Corp. cars have been fitted with hydraulic brakes.

Soon after acquiring the car, Griner drove her Plymouth to Pennsylvania and got caught in a pouring rainstorm while the vacuum-powered windshield wipers struggled valiantly to clear the two-piece windshield. "Every place it could leak, it did," she says.

By 1993 the time had come to restore the then 53-year-old convertible. When it was dismantled and stripped, it was discovered that the original color of the car had been aviator blue. That's the color Griner opted for when it came time for repainting.

The car had remarkably little rust. Only the cancerous metal floor pan had to be



THIS CUTE 1940 Plymouth convertible has been completely restored and fitted with a new, snug, waterproof top.

cut away and replaced.

Both front fenders were replaced simply because it was less expensive to do so than to straighten the original fenders that over the years had kissed too many garage doors.

Remembering her waterlogged adventure to Pennsylvania, Griner insisted on a new waterproof top carefully fitted to ensure that the interior remain snug and, more

importantly, dry during a rainstorm.

During the restoration, both chrome bumpers were replated. A metal splash pan covers the gap between the body and the rear bumper.

Now that her Plymouth is restored, Griner has had her father look it over and he has pronounced it authentic. "It's loaded," Griner says while pointing out the

optional glass wing vents and the never tires of driving the Plymouth convertible.

For your car to become the Classic Classics column (frontal 3/4 view) plus phone number to: Vern Parker, 10000 Rockville Drive, Vienna, VA 22182. Lots of good quality will be done.

Be aware of warning signs for replacing battery

KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

Q The battery in my Acura is going on 6 years old and I'm wondering if I should change it now or wait for it to leave me stranded.

Some time back you said this was about the life one could expect from a battery. Are there any warning signs I might watch for?

My daughter will be taking the car snowboarding soon and that has me a bit concerned. I'd change it in a heartbeat now, but it seems to be working fine.

Eric Reuter, San Bernardino, Calif.

A Eric, you're wise to consider this before your daughter's trip. A cold-weather start-up is a different ballgame than what occurs at home.

At 32 degrees Fahrenheit, a battery's cranking strength is diminished by about 40 percent and the starter's energy requirement rises because of increased engine friction.

The warning signs of a tired battery include a more than slight change in headlight brightness as engine speed is increased above idle, or less than spirited cranking speed (the starter's near-silent sound) after one or more doors are left open for a half-hour or more — as when cleaning the interior.

Here's a primitive home version of a professional battery load test. (Be sure to have jumper cables and another vehicle handy in case of gross failure.)

First, locate and unplug the small wires connected to the ignition distributor or fuel injectors, rendering the engine inoperable.

Next, crank the engine for 15 seconds. If cranking speed decreases noticeably or the battery's voltage drops below 10.0 volts (measured with a \$20 to \$30 voltmeter from a parts or home-improvement store) I would shop for a new battery right away.

Even if your battery passes this quick-and-dirty test, I still would have some reservations about subjecting it to cold-weather operation.

Let's take a look at jump-starting a vehicle, which might influence your battery-replacement decision. Modern cars and trucks can carry more than \$2,000 in on-board electronic components and are very sensitive to voltage spikes and improper terminal polarity.

Keane

FROM PAGE D1.

After my examination of the fit and finish, I concluded the 300C is equal to the very best of the high-end luxury cars. I took notice of all the conveniences such as two-way auto up-and-down front windows, power seats, tilt and telescoping steering wheel, and easy-to-read analog instruments. Other features, expected in a Mercedes-Benz sedan, are also on the 300C.

The sound system is upscale and includes SIRIUS Satellite Radio with more than 100 stations, plus voice dialing telephone on a sophisticated communications system. Available is a navigational system that can be personalized.

About the only thing overlooked was

2005 CHRYSLER 300C

Vehicle Type	Five-passenger, four-door, full-size RWD sedan	
Suggested Retail		\$32,995
Engine Type	16-valve, 5.7-liter V8 OHV w/SPFI	
Horsepower		340 at 5,000 rpm
Torque		390 @ 4,000 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic	
Wheelbase		120 inches
Overall Length		197 inches
Height		58 inches
Curb Weight		3,296 pounds
Fuel Capacity		16 gallons
Mileage	City/highway	20/27

BRAD BERGHOLDT

Auto Q&A

Many manufacturers recommend removing or disconnecting a battery and recharging it in lieu of jump-starting, because of the risk of component damage. Always check the owner's manual for viability and unique procedures before breaking out the cables.

If allowed and/or critically necessary, here is the general procedure: With eye protection in place and the ignition switch of both vehicles off (very important), connect the red jumper cable between each battery's positive (red) terminal. If you aren't absolutely sure of the battery's terminal markings, do not continue!

Next, connect one end of the black cable to the donor vehicle's battery negative (black) terminal and the remaining end to a thick metal engine component on the dead vehicle's engine. The resulting spark will now occur away from the battery's explosive internal gases.

Start the dead vehicle and remove the cable connections in reverse order. Allow it to run for at least a half-hour before shutting off.

Oil-change tips

Changing your oil? When renewing an oil filter, be sure the original filter's sealing O-ring hasn't remained affixed to the engine.

The resulting "double gasket" will later blow out, possibly ruining the engine.

Pre-filling a vertically mounted filter with oil reduces "dry time" (lack of oil pressure) during the first post-change start-up.

Don't forget to lubricate the sealing O-ring to avoid possible tearing, and be sure to drain the old oil filter for 24 hours before disposing of it.

Finally, if hometown oil recycling isn't available, check with your auto parts store for oil and filter disposal information.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose. Write to him in care of Drive, Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190; or e-mail to under-the-hood@juno.com. He cannot make personal replies.

the odometer's position: It needed to be shaded from the sun. But the compass right below the speedometer indicated clearly that I was going the wrong direction from my intended route when I made a left turn instead of a right.

I drove the 300C a couple hundred miles over various types of roads, up and down hills, in and out of traffic, and rural roads as well as highways, putting various demands on its performance.

Then, questions came to mind. What has Daimler done? It doggedly insisted on building quality and got it. But now what?

Would I buy the more expensive Mercedes-Benz or a Chrysler 300C? My answer favored the Chrysler, not the Benz. Then another thought came to mind: Is this the beginning of the tail wagging the dog?

Chevy offers a van for hauling people and goods

MOTOR MATTERS

Buy the 2004 Chevy Express Passenger Van and go into the shuttle business transporting up to 14 passengers.

This \$29,534 vehicle powered by a V8 6.0-liter engine includes the latch system for child seats, stabilitrak, daytime running lamps and side doors for easy entry.

A host of options are available including tilt wheel and speed control, remote keyless entry, rear heater, OnStar, six-way power driver and front passenger seats, and much more.

All you'll need are a few customers and you're in business.

Shocking report: Police throughout the nation are being warned to approach an accident involving either a Toyota Prius or Honda Insight and Civic Hybrid with caution as the engines in these cars could still be running silently.

The battery in a hybrid packs enough voltage to kill a person, more than 500 volts in the 2004 Prius, compared with 12 volts in the standard car battery.

Longevity: The average lifespan of vehicles is increasing.



SPARE PARTS
Motor Matters

CHEVY'S Express Passenger transport up to 14 people with entry side doors.

Cars are becoming more durable and lasting longer, according to R. L. Polk & Co. The median age of U.S. vehicles expanded by 2.4 percent in 2003.

Cars are driven for roughly 8.6 years;

light trucks have a somewhat age at 6.5 years, according to the Last year, the overall vehicle

See SPARE Page D2

Freewheeling

FROM PAGE D1

GM Mobility has a say in how all vehicles are designed in order to have features and attributes that benefit all customers, but especially seniors and people with disabilities.

It pushed through design changes as seemingly simple as an ignition switch located on the dash instead of the steering wheel so the driver doesn't have to bend the hand, a difficult task for an arthritic hand. GM Mobility lobbies for wider opening doors for easier entry of disabled passengers and loading of wheelchairs.

In addition, GM Mobility works with outside companies to design equipment, from hand controls to ramps for wheelchairs and scooters, that are installed in GM's vehicles. Under Talbot's leadership, GM has attempted to be more scientific about coming up with ways to help the disabled.

In January 2001, GM and the United Auto Workers joined forces to include active and retired employees in a customer clinic to collect data to help GM make decisions on how to make its cars and trucks more user friendly.

Talbot has also worked industrywide by serving on committees within the Society of Automotive Engineers, a professional organization that investigates specific issues and develops certain standards.

Talbot thinks his engineering background and years at GM in coming up with pragmatic solutions for the disabled will be of value to the president's committee. Talbot will serve a four-year term that expires Dec. 3, 2007, when he will be eligible for another four-year term.

He'll meet with the board a half-dozen times a year and will serve on subcommittees that look at everything from access to cruise ships to the design and modification of playgrounds.

"I bring to the committee a good, grounded business sense. I understand you can't just make the world flat or put a ramp every place," Talbot said. But as a person confined to a wheelchair, Talbot will lobby for full inclusion of the disabled into society in terms of employment and accessibility to housing and transportation. "My goal is to put GM at the forefront of these discussions," he said.

Talbot serves both Presidents George Bush. The elder President Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 1990. The current president signed the Freedom Initiative in 2001. Further, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush recently signed a Florida Freedom Initiative based on the federal effort.

"With their leadership, the expectations of people in the disability community are

starting to rise," said Talbot. "In 19 years, many have wandered. Their expectations were how to get Social Security benefits so they could live on their own."

"Now," he added, "the changed. Accessibility for the disabled is more than a goal. It's a reality. We can get buses, in and out of buildings, education, raise and lower our lives can be productive."

Still, Talbot notes, unemployment for the disabled is more than 10 percent. "That's disgusting, but if we push these initiatives and initiatives, we can do incredibly better."

In concluding his interview, the modest Talbot told me he was doubly honored to be an ambassador and be appointed by President Bush to serve in his administration. "A small voice," he said, "but a bigger."

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2004 GMC Envoy XUV is less sport and more utility

MOTOR MATTERS

new about the GMC Envoy XUV. Old car buffs will remember that in 1963, a sliding roof on a cargo compartment was introduced on the Lark Wagon. It was a big SUV with a versatile interior. For the next 40 years, and we find the Envoy, it's not likely that many will be asked to pull any off-road duty more strenuous than a rutted, dirt road. Ground clearance is 8 inches, angles of approach/departure are 34 and 23 degrees, respectively, for 4x4 models.

An undercarriage skid plate (made of reinforced, composite materials) is offered optionally. GMC's 4x4 system is engaged by dash mounted push buttons. Drivers select between automatic, 4 High, 4 Low, or two-wheel drive modes.

Pulling off-road duty is one thing, but just plain pulling is another. Many people buy big sport utilities to tow boats or trailers. Depending on the drivetrain, Envoy can be equipped to tow as much as 5,800 pounds (six-cylinder, 4x2) or 6,500 pounds (V8, 4x4).

The XUV can be had with two drivetrains. Standard issue is a 4.2-liter inline six-cylinder. It's good for 275 horsepower, and 275 pounds-foot of torque.

Optional is a 5.3-liter V8, rated at 290 horsepower, and 325 pounds-foot of torque. XUV weighs about 5,000 pounds, and the six is adequate for most uses, except high demand situations, like passing or on-ramp merges, where acceleration is slower than you'd like.

Since both engines have virtually the same EPA gas mileage ratings (mid to high teens for miles per gallon) my strong suggestion is to consider the V8. That's especially true if you plan on doing much towing.

XUV feels its size when cornering and braking. There's a fair amount of body lean when you wrap around turns and, like any heavy truck, drivers need to keep in mind that they can't stop on a dime.

The XUV is a comfortable traveler. Ride quality stands up to long road trips. The big Envoy is rated for five, though rear seat passengers will run short on leg room if everyone is tall.

DAN LYONS
Get Off the Road

lay 4-by-8 foot sheets of plywood in back. All in all, a flexible, versatile arrangement.

Envoy is offered in 4x2 and 4x4 models. Given its large size and luxury leanings, it's not likely that many will be asked to pull any off-road duty more strenuous than a rutted, dirt road. Ground clearance is 8 inches, angles of approach/departure are 34 and 23 degrees, respectively, for 4x4 models.

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GMC HAS designed its new Envoy XUV to be utilitarian and offer the benefits of a pickup truck in a big SUV with a versatile cargo hold.

cially true if you plan on doing much towing. XUV feels its size when cornering and braking. There's a fair amount of body lean when you wrap around turns and, like any heavy truck, drivers need to keep in mind that they can't stop on a dime.

The XUV is a comfortable traveler. Ride quality stands up to long road trips. The big Envoy is rated for five, though rear seat passengers will run short on leg room if everyone is tall.

The driver will find that the interior is user friendly and well optioned, on either the base, SLE or the uplevel SLT. My SLE test-truck had an as-tested price of \$36,370.

If you set aside the option sheet, the difference between the SLE and SLT trim levels are things like leather trimmed, heated seats (instead of cloth), steering wheel mounted, redundant switches for climate control and sound system, and memory settings for driver's seat and mirrors.

Regardless of which model you pick, all the switchgear for the back compartment (Midgate window, rear roof/window) is found on the overhead console.

With so many players in the SUV field, it's hard to find a way to stand out. GMC's new angle is to revisit an old idea, accentuating the "Utility" in "Sport Utility". Its clever cargo hold will appeal to people who need to pick up a variety of loads, but don't necessarily want to drive a pickup truck.

produce fuel-cell vehicles in large numbers by 2010, others predict fuel cell-powered vehicles would be on the road by 2020.

Any connection? Almost 30 percent of those who answered a survey said they

would drive home after drinking if they were five miles or less from home.

Automotive insurance data reveals that most accidents occur within five miles of home.

by 9.1 percent.

offers second crossover

for 2005:

look of an SUV and the utilitarian — Pontiac's all-new SV6

sport van delivers a package of styling, responsive performance, safety and segment-leading in-vehicle entertainment choices.

Pontiac's 2005 SV6 is Pontiac's second crossover vehicle and is the latest in its growing portfolio of new products, including the 2004 Grand Prix, Bonneville, GTO, the refreshed 2005 Vibe, and the 2006 Solstice road-

ing for work? The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that dealers are facing a shortage of 35,000 technicians through 2010.

average salary for an automotive technician in 2002 was \$41,588, according to the National Automobile Dealers Association. Other reports indicate the pay for technicians can be as high as \$120,000.

information go to www.automotive.com to learn about the dire need for more technicians.

ing up: The V8 engines are becoming popular as Americans renew their interest with horsepower.

makers installed eight-cylinder engines in 28.1 percent of passenger vehicles in North America for the U.S. market, the highest rate since 1985, according to Ward's Automotive Reports.

rate has risen every year since the same four-year stretch, smaller engine engines fell from nearly 27 percent to 25.3 percent. Source: The Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Lincoln Mark LT pickup stands out from the crowd:

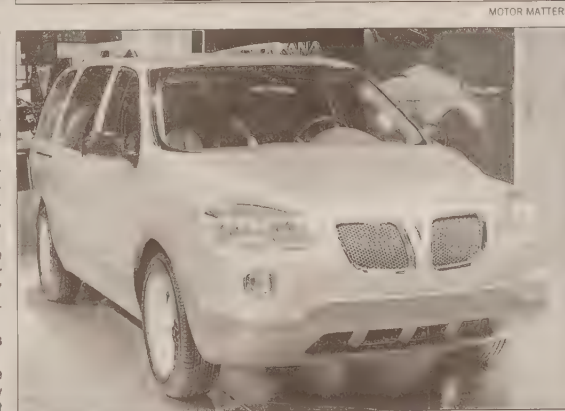
ing the functionality of a full-size pickup with the luxury of a legendary brand, the Mark LT is a key part of Ford's plan to broaden the lineup.

For the first time uses the Mark LT for a pickup truck. That's because Ford LT upholds the tradition of a vehicle that stands apart from all others.

LT is derived from Ford's new F-Series pickup. It will be available in both standard and configurations and will offer a choice of doors and a 5.5-foot box.

top 16.6 million. The National Automobile Dealers Association was right in its prediction for full-line pickup.

According to Ward's AutoInfoBank, the 2004 Lincoln Mark LT is the 16.6 million units were last



PONTIAC'S new crossover sport van, the Montana SV6, is part of its expanding portfolio of new products.

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THE VOLVO XC70 combines flexibility, longevity, comfort and handling. Left, Lincoln has put the Mark name on a pickup truck for the first time with its Mark LT that's derived from Ford's new F-150.

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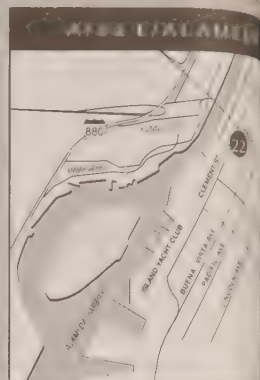
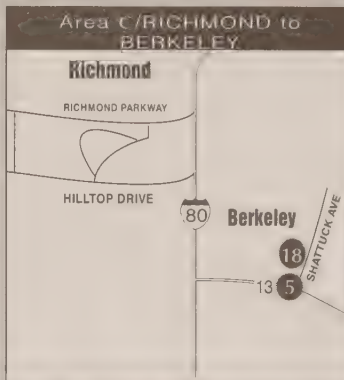
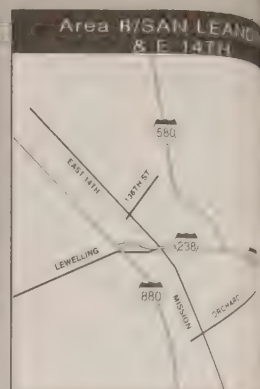
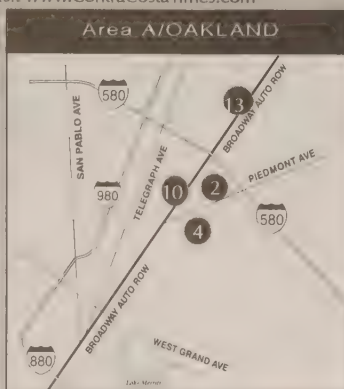
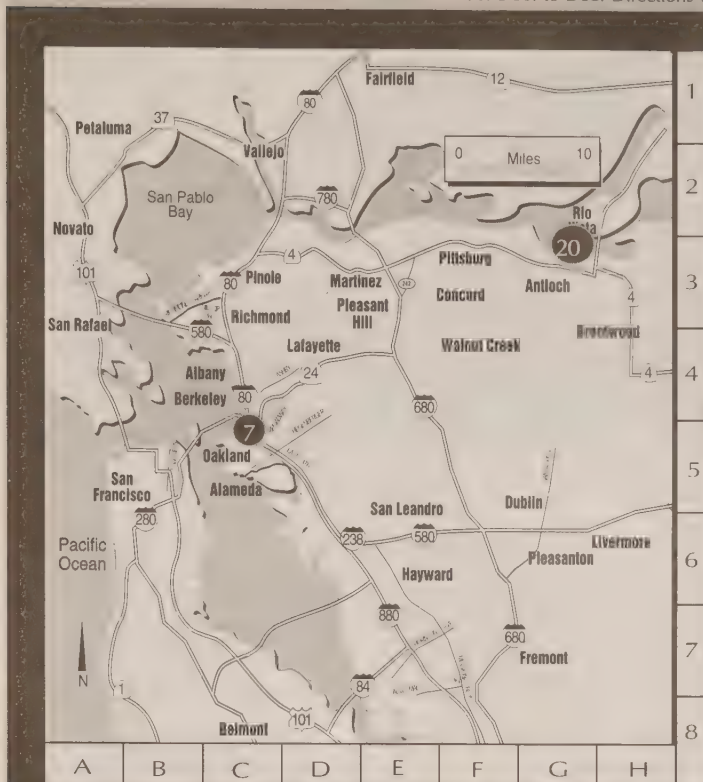
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ARCHITECT Protect Mgrs. Job Captains & CAD. Positions avail. Must have comm'l. exp. Fax resume 949-767-5903 hawarealmcomb.com

ARCHITECTURE: INTERIOR Project Mgr. Job Captain & CAD avail. Must have Comm'l. Interior exp. Fax Resume 949-767-5903 hawarealmcomb.com

ATTENTION! Int'l. bus. expanding. We need help immed. Mail order Internet. Training 2 bonuses. 888-249-8280

AUTO, Alignments, Brks & Tires, Lesswabs Tire Center. No exp. needed. All pos. avail. 2650 Los Positos Rd., Livermore, 916-812-0194 Web ID CC0229659682

AUTO BODY TECH. Immyn I-CAR & ASE helpful. F/T bnfts. Apply-CROCKETT'S Premier Auto body or fax resume 510-741-9009 Web ID CC0306669188

AUTO MECHANIC Journeyman Tech, tools & exp. req. Top pay + bnfts. Apply at Roverland, 10000 Hwy 92, Mt. View, 925-957-1596 Web ID CC0229689650

CLASSIFIED RESULTS

CONTRACOSTATIMES.COM

Employment

AUTOMOTIVE **Acura Dealership, Full Time** Dispatchers. Knowledge of service operations, required. Call Keith Boucet at 925-448-8860. No 401K/benefits. Fax Resume (925) 827-3511

AUTOMOTIVE **Auto Tech, ASE, smog** & diagnostic exp. Ed pay, bonus + bnfts. Call Ian, 925-687-5353

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Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment
LABORATORY TECHNICIANS Valero Refining Company (Benita) is seeking two F/T laboratory technicians to work rotating shifts. Bachelor's degree in chemistry, biology, or laboratory sciences required. 3 years previous experience in an analytical laboratory required. Knowledge of ASTM methods to perform physical and chemical analyses on petroleum products required. Base salary \$20.186 plus OT. Competitive benefits. To visit our website at www.valero.com and select Work at Valero. Valero Corporation is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer that values the ideas, perspectives, and contributions of our diverse workforce.	LANDSCAPE - Install, foreman/sup/mgr. req. 3 yrs exp. 9:30-5:30. Web ID CC0306971097	LANDSCAPE Maintenance Women Pk. Wkly. 8:30-3:30. Landscape Care Co. 4025 E. 12th St. #200. Web ID CC030697475	LANDSCAPE Pest control, tr. maint., pruning, etc. a plus. Must have good communication skills. Clean DMV, exp. and benefits. Call Dick @ (925) 250-9377	LANDSCAPERS Lead & Laborers for East Bay. Salary \$25-34. Call Dennis 925-934-6101	LAND SURVEYORS Mackay & Samps needs land surveyors. Exp. in all types of Engineering-Field. Web ID CC030697475	LEADLINE CONSULTANT Beautiful art. content. seeks energetic pro. professional to work on Apartments with spectacular water views. Experienced computer skills a plus. Please fax resume 977-557-4098. Web ID CC0306971994	LEGAL ASST/SECY For Family Law practice Hayward, 2 yrs. exp. Successful candidate is self-starter who follows through. Fast, accurate, work ethic. Excellent written/oral comm. skills a must. Fax letter/Resume 925-254-7500	LEGAL SECRETARY 3-5 yrs exp. small SR. firm. Successful candidate must be fast & accurate, family with court filing. Call Rita 925-254-7500	LEGAL SECRETARY P/T Sal. & hrs. flex/needed. 9:30-5:30. Call 925-254-7500. Web ID CC0306975035
LEGAL STAFF ATTORNEY The Superior Court of the County of Alameda (CSA-047-955-695/annual plus benefits). The State Bar Member Grad. from an accredited law school. In prof. civil, and/or in legal practice. Full, but not req. Attorneys are avail. M-F at the Superior Court Executive Office, 600 Union Ave., 2nd floor, Alameda, CA 94533 or Application and job specification can be found on our website www.solanocourts.com . Call HR @ 707-421-4813. Closing date 03/15/04.	LIBRARY ASSISTANT Contra Costa College \$30.10-\$36.60. Three yrs exp. with 2 yrs supervising staff. Req. equiv. of 2 yrs of college with emphasis on library technology. Application materials may be obtained at www.ccd.net or person or by mail. Send self-addressed envelope to the District Office address follows. All applications must be returned to Dept. HR, CCCO, 5000 Street, Martinez, CA 94553. Fax or e-mail applications to hr@ccd.net .	Licensed Real Estate Agent/Leasing Agent Need. Wkly. Property Management Company. Wkly. train. resume to 510-232-3501	LIFE Sign Displayer Looking for high energy indiv. for directional arrows to passing traffic. Ends only. Hercules Area 1-800-350-3916	LOAN OFFICER No credit check. Loan officer. Friendly, high energy. Processing exp. Bmrdw Fax 925-513-2350. Web ID CC0306971334	CLASSIFIED = RESULTS	LOAN OFFICER For top 500 Real Estate Co. up to 90% profit. Web ID CC0306972782	LOAN OFFICER Fortune 500 Real Estate Co. up to 90% profit. Web ID CC0306972782	LOAN OFFICER We have the aggressive programs. You need to make 2004 your best year ever. Min. 2 yrs. exp. + RE. Licensed. Call Web ID 925-838-2227. Fax 925-838-8676. Danville	LOAN OFFICERS Leading Bay Area Mortgage Co. has a spot for experienced loan officers. LEADS, market. no cost to you. don't stop for details. Resu. opty. Jill 925-680-1140
LOAN OFFICER No experience necessary. Loan officer. 925-254-7500. Web ID CC0306972721	LOAN OFFICER Credit union seeks. Loan officer. 925-254-7500. Web ID CC0306972721	LOAN OFFICER Credit union seeks. Loan officer. 925-254-7500. Web ID CC0306972721	LOAN OFFICER Credit union seeks. Loan officer. 925-254-7500. Web ID CC0306972721	LOAN OFFICER Credit union seeks. Loan officer. 925-254-7500. Web ID CC0306972721	LOAN OFFICER Credit union seeks. Loan officer. 925-254-7500. Web ID CC0306972721	LOAN OFFICER Credit union seeks. Loan officer. 925-254-7500. Web ID CC0306972721	LOAN OFFICER Credit union seeks. Loan officer. 925-254-7500. Web ID CC0306972721	LOAN OFFICER Credit union seeks. Loan officer. 925-254-7500. Web ID CC0306972721	LOAN OFFICER Credit union seeks. Loan officer. 925-254-7500. Web ID CC0306972721

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\$60,000 to \$450,000+

Professional Managers & Executives

- Presidents/COOs/CFOs (150-450K+)
- English/Sr. Proj. Mgrs. (60K-145K)
- Sales & Sales Mgrs. (60K-220K+)
- IT/IS Staff (125K-200K)
- VP Mktg/Advtg/Mkt Res. (60-250K+)
- Cont'l Fin. Anal. (60K-180K)
- Administrative (60K-180K)
- Ops/Manuf Dir/VPs (60K-270K)
- HR Directors (60K-250K+)
- Sr. Project Mgrs (60K-120K+)
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Review jobs at www.managementjobs.com. Or Fax resume to 1-888-559-0883 or send to: Charles Connors, VP, USA Executive Search, 500 Executive Parkway, Suite 550, San Ramon, CA 94583. Free hardcover Professional Job Search handbook to candidates & Free Professional Resume Analysis.

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EMPLOYMENT

SALES INSIDE/CUST. SVC. Sales inside area. Full-time, 40 hrs/week. Computer, own laptop. Mail resume: 800 West 6th, Benicia, CA 94510. Web ID CC0311675880

SALES, INT'L. STONE CO. Sales inside salesperson. Heavy phone sales. Flooring or roof. Fax resume to: Gen. Sales, 925-977-4885. Web ID CC0229657382

Sales Management FAST TRACK CAREER OPPORTUNITY IN FINANCIAL SERVICES Mgmt. Inc. has immediate openings for Management Trainees & Sales Positions in our Southern Calif. Office. Complete training & commission. 401k matching. Stock options, health benefits. Be a part of a unique organization poised for growth. Call Maryellen SAM-SPM at 800-600-2520 or info@cmfinc.com. Real advice from real people. Securities offered through Sun American Investment Inc. Member NASD/ SIPC. ICM, a registered investment advisor, is not affiliated with Sun American Securities.

SALES/Outside Sales Pros Needed! Established company with unique product needs aggressive, energetic sales professionals with a passion to be #1 and a college degree strongly preferred. Looking for candidates along 880 Corridor from Fremont North to the North Bay. Base + Uncapped commissions + Exp. + Bnfts. E-mail: kbals@pacbell.net. Fax 925-278-2661. Web ID CC0229680581

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SALES OUTSIDE Sales Inside/Side. Seeking an aggressive Business to Business salesperson. Pleasanton/Livermore/Hayward area. Realistic 1st yr. \$40,500. 2nd yr. \$50,700. Base + 2nd yr. comm. www.shred.com. 925-363-3952 or concordia@shred.com

SALES/Pleasanton based Bay Home & Window has a senior RV, open. Ranked in the INC. 500 fastest growing in America. We spec. size. In high-end custom shutters. Excel growth potential & training. 1st yr. avg. income \$95,100+ avg. base/comm + bnfts. & 401k. Successful sales history req. Fax res 925-846-2479. Email: HR@bayhome.com. andwindow.com. Web ID CC0229659882

SALES/P/T Sales Mgr. for Cafe Fanny Granola, a sm. mfg. co. Fax res 925-268-3700. Web ID CC030564780

SALES Rep. 3-5 yrs. exp. & pkn. industry exp. Fax 707-745-8552. Web ID CC0303662448

SALES/Right Place, Right Time \$50-\$100K. Qual. leads. 2-3 yrs. exp. in retail. To Merchant Services. 888-920-7424

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SALES/NEW & Upscale Receptions. Stylists. Nail Techs. Estheticians needed. Commission + Bonus. Fax 925-284-0613. Web ID CC0304653407

SALON/Paragon station (rental). Apply: 2860A Plonville Blvd., Plonville. Web ID CC0311978137

SECURITY SERVICE TECH 3 yrs. exp. with security, reg. val. cert. CTV, clean DMV. A must. Great wages & bnfts. Military exp. a plus. Call Matt 925-525-3171. Web ID CC0227633954

SERVICE Advisor/Mgr. Transmission shop. 925-285-7328

SERVICE Rep. To call on drug store acc'ts. Duties incl. writing & merchandising orders. Working in retail. Job store env. a +. Fax resume to: www.bostonvalley.com. Web ID CC0310673274

SHOP Helper, door w/ window exp. Reply to AD 2021. Call Les 925-581-1010. P.O. Box 4718, Walnut Creek 94596. Web ID CC022860338

SMOKE TECHNICIAN Call Hal 925-256-5900. Web ID CC0305660038

SOCIAL PRGM Instrs. Part time for professional socialists to CD clients. Antioch 925-706-7517. Web ID CC022860338

TEACHER/AIDE for after school prog. In W.C. P/T w/poss. F/T in summer. 925-525-5255

TEACHER/Cosmetology Instructor, F/T. Fax resume to: 925-685-7045. Web ID CC0213634467

TELEMARKETER Part time for mortgage banking leads. Top salary & bonus for professional manner & production. Good comm. & training skills. Ever. Wages & bnfts. Call 925-472-3594

TELEMARKETING/P/T Cust. relations firm. Speaks Spanish speaking, computer knowledge. Fax res 925-277-1565

TELEMARKETING/SALES San Ramon based office has an exp. opportunity for an exp. phone person to make lots of money. If you have sales & phone exp. & are looking to earn \$600 - \$1000 + per wk you owe it to yourself to call today. We are an established 30 yr. old marketing company who is looking for an energetic person in CA to set up a Commission + Bonus plan. To find out more & set up an interview call: Martin @ 800-935-0077 or fax res to 925-837-4777

TERMINAL HELPER Call: 925-268-1065. Sharyr Cir., #D, Concord

TERMINAL INSPECTOR B.N.Y. Comm. Bnfts. 401k. 1,800-244-1178. Web ID CC031164600

TERMINAL ROUTE Inspector Branch 3 lic req. Opening now avail. Clark Pest Control 925-752-8980. Web ID CC0306162624

TILE Helpers. Must have exp. & dependable truck. 925-937-5290. Web ID CC0302660062

TOW TRUCK DRIVER 1 yr exp w/CD DMV, N. Main Twp 925-933-7670. Web ID CC030303387

TOW TRUCK DRIVER/F/T Pln. Train full bnfts. Clean DMV. Apply: 1185 Somersville Rd., Antioch. Web ID CC0224648877

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TEACHER & AIDES Teaching in the Antioch Area. Teacher: 19th Grade. Teacher: 19th Grade. Web ID CC0310673282

TEACHER Danville preschool. 6-12 yrs. exp. April-June, 1st yr. \$21,000. 2nd yr. \$21,000. 3rd yr. \$21,000. 4th yr. \$21,000. 5th yr. \$21,000. 6th yr. \$21,000. 7th yr. \$21,000. 8th yr. \$21,000. 9th yr. \$21,000. 10th yr. \$21,000. 11th yr. \$21,000. 12th yr. \$21,000. 13th yr. \$21,000. 14th yr. \$21,000. 15th yr. \$21,000. 16th yr. \$21,000. 17th yr. \$21,000. 18th yr. \$21,000. 19th yr. \$21,000. 20th yr. \$21,000. 21st yr. \$21,000. 22nd yr. \$21,000. 23rd yr. \$21,000. 24th yr. \$21,000. 25th yr. \$21,000. 26th yr. \$21,000. 27th yr. \$21,000. 28th yr. \$21,000. 29th yr. \$21,000. 30th yr. \$21,000. 31st yr. \$21,000. 32nd yr. \$21,000. 33rd yr. \$21,000. 34th yr. \$21,000. 35th yr. \$21,000. 36th yr. \$21,000. 37th yr. \$21,000. 38th yr. \$21,000. 39th yr. \$21,000. 40th yr. \$21,000. 41st yr. \$21,000. 42nd yr. \$21,000. 43rd yr. \$21,000. 44th yr. \$21,000. 45th yr. \$21,000. 46th yr. \$21,000. 47th yr. \$21,000. 48th yr. \$21,000. 49th yr. \$21,000. 50th yr. \$21,000. 51st yr. \$21,000. 52nd yr. \$21,000. 53rd yr. 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Automobiles

Automobiles

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V8351 107K orig., \$2000
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ARTISING SUPPLEMENT



Celebrate with a taste of the Irish

THE BEEF BOARD AND NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Irish. Everybody wants a little bit Irish on St. Patrick's Day, so celebrate with Irish food favorites.

Irish Beef Pot Pie is a tasty, simple — version of the meat pies so beloved in Ireland. Starting with tender, cooking beef chuck top steak, frozen vegetables, refrigerated pie crust, this dish can be on the table in 30 minutes.

Corned beef is your choice, lively rendition accented with sautéed onion and sautéed beef. Apple-Onion Sauté is a colorful, contemporary option for the Spicy Beef Brisket. (And don't

forget to make those Reubens from the leftovers!)

Corned beef brisket basics

A few simple tips can ensure that your corned beef brisket will be cooked to perfection — tender, moist and flavorful.

■ Use the correct size roasting pan (without the rack). Place the brisket flat in the pan.

■ Add seasoning and a small amount of liquid as suggested in the recipe.

■ Cover the pan tightly with aluminum foil.

■ Cook in a preheated 350-degree oven, without opening the oven or lifting the foil, for the minimum cooking time suggested in the recipe. At that time, check the beef.

When the beef is done (fork-tender), a fork can be easily inserted into the meat without resistance.

ST. PAT'S BEEF POT PIE

1-1/2 pounds boneless beef chuck top blade steak or 1-1/2 pounds boneless beef top sirloin steak, cut 1 inch thick

1 package (8 ounces) cremini mushrooms, sliced

1-1/2 cups frozen crinkle cut carrots

1-1/2 cups frozen peas

2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme, divided

1 teaspoon minced garlic, divided

Salt and pepper
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1 can (13-3/4 to 14-1/4 ounces) ready-to-serve beef broth

CLASSIC REUBEN SANDWICH, left, and St. Pat's Beef Pot Pie, above.

1 refrigerated pie crust (1/2 of a 15-ounce package)
Heat oven to 425 degrees. Cut beef steak lengthwise in half, then

crosswise into 1/4-inch-thick strips. Spray large nonstick skillet with nonstick cooking spray. Heat over medium-high heat until hot. Add

mushrooms; cook and stir 3 minutes. Add carrots, peas, 1 teaspoon

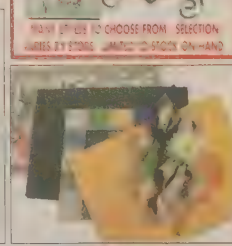
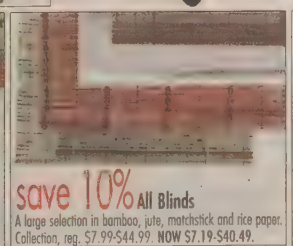
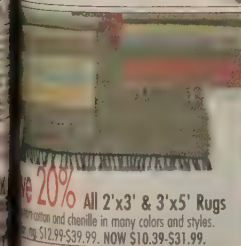
See ST. PAT'S, Page 3

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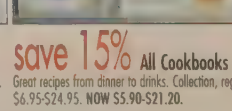
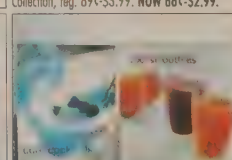
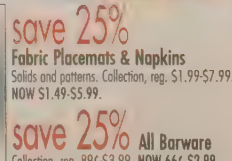
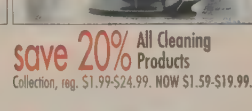
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All wine bottles 750ml unless otherwise noted



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Pat's

PAGE 1

1/2 teaspoon garlic; add 1/2 to 4 cups or until carrots and peas are tender. Remove from skillet; set aside. Repeat with beef. Sprinkle remaining 1/2 teaspoon thyme and 1/2 teaspoon onion onto top of pie crust. Bake in 15-1/2 x 10-inch jelly-roll pan. Bake in oven 16 to 18 minutes until crust is golden. Remove from oven to wire rack; let cool 5 to 10 minutes before serving.

Total preparation and cooking time: 35 minutes. Makes 6 servings.

Cook's Tip: For a richer-flavored sauce, remove skillet from stovetop and add 1/4 cup Irish whiskey to skillet.

Return skillet to heat; add the beef broth mixture.

Cook and stir about 1 to 2 minutes or until any browned bits on bottom of skillet are dissolved.

SPICY CORNED BEEF BRISKET WITH APPLE-ONION SAUTÉ

2-1/2 to 3-1/2 pound boneless corned beef brisket
2 cups chopped onions
5 cloves garlic, peeled
1-1/2 teaspoons pickling spice
1 bottle (12 ounces) dark beer
Apple-Onion Sauté (recipe follows)

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Place corned beef brisket in large roasting pan. Add onions and garlic to pan.

Sprinkle brisket with pickling spice. Pour in beer.

Cover pan tightly with aluminum foil. Cook in 350-degree oven 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 hours or until beef is fork-tender.

Remove brisket from pan; trim fat. Carve diagonally across the grain. Serve with Apple-Onion Sauté. Total preparation and cooking time: 2-3/4 to 3-3/4 hours. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

APPLE-ONION SAUTÉ

3 tablespoons butter, divided
2 medium onions, cut into thin slices
1 large Granny Smith apple, cored and sliced 1/4 inch thick
1 large Jonathan apple, cored and sliced 1/4 inch thick
1 tablespoon packed brown sugar

Melt 2 tablespoons butter in large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add onions; cook and stir 15 minutes or until lightly browned.

Add apples, remaining 1 tablespoon butter and brown sugar to onions; cook and stir an additional 5 to 8 minutes or until apples are crisp-tender.

Total preparation and cooking time: 25 minutes. Makes 4 cups.

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Layer thinly carved leftover corned beef brisket on a slice of marbled rye bread. Top with drained sauerkraut, a drizzle of Thousand Island dressing and sliced Swiss cheese.

Top with second bread slice and grill in heated nonstick skillet over medium heat until golden brown on both sides and cheese is melted.

For additional beef recipes and cooking information, check out the www.BeeftsWhatsForDinner.com Web site.

What's old is new again: fossils bring unique, natural look to room decor

BY DIANE GOLDSMITH
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Fossils and other elements of natural history bring an intriguing organic touch to a room. But they're not on every store shelf.

Here are some ideas on where to look:

■ Limestone countertops with 50-million-year-old fish fossils embedded in them are available from Green River Stone Co. "Seeing something so perfectly formed that was alive so long ago touches something in our imagination," says Greg Laco, president of the firm.

Cost: \$300 to \$500 per square foot (not installed); 435-753-4069 or www.greenriverstone.com.

■ For those who prefer the look of semiprecious stones or minerals on their breakfast bar, CaesarStone's Concetto Surface Art line offers turquoise, black lace agate and carnelian, to name a few options.

Cost: \$300 to \$500 per square foot installed; 877-978-2789 for a catalog or dealer, or e-mail info@caesarstone.com.

■ Pangaea Industries Inc., offers furniture fashioned from fossil-laden stone.

A coffee table with dart-shaped Orthoceras fossils from Morocco, similar to those in Dinosaur Society founder Don Lessem's table, is available for \$600; an end table

is \$200. <http://pangaeaindustries.com>.

Lessem also hangs fossils on the wall, much as you'd hang a painting. A replica similar to his Archaeopteryx can be found at www.dinosaursrock.com (click on "new dinosaur replicas") for \$99.

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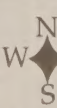
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Area rug puzzle: Choose the floor covering that fits the space

BY STACY DOWNS
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Area rugs bring in warmth during the winter, protecting feet from frigid floors and creating a cozy look in a room.

But placing the right rug in the right room can be a puzzle: How much of the furniture should be on top?

And can a stylish small rug be the right scale for a large space? The dilemmas of area rugs have become more common as their stature has risen — thanks to all the new and old homes with wood and tile floors. But people still want some of the softness carpet has to offer, only not so much of it.

The placement of rugs is particularly important in downtown lofts, which are becoming increasingly popular living spaces. Rugs help define conversation and dining areas within lofts' vast openness, says Benjamin Sundermeier, owner of Space Planning and Design, and High Cotton, a home furnishings store in Kansas City.

"Rugs offer a great contrast to the more industrial finishes lofts have," says Sundermeier, a space planner and interior designer.

Whether you live in a loft or not, before shopping for a rug, measure the length and width of furniture and rooms. Take those dimensions and a tape measure to stores.

Pam Hoelzel, a textiles expert and sales associate at Smith and Burstert Oriental Rugs in Kansas

City, tells customers to leave at least a foot-long border between a rug and wall. That way, the rug will lie straight and some of the natural flooring will show.

For a dining room, make sure the rug is big enough to allow at least three feet behind each table setting. Chair legs shouldn't fall off the rug when people are seated at the table or when the chair is pulled out.

Putting a rug near a fireplace requires special consideration. To guard the rug from sparks, place it at least six inches from the fireplace and invest in an adequate fireplace screen if you don't already have one.

Sundermeier compares choosing rugs to searching for a good outfit: You want rugs to complement the whole.

He says rooms look best when rugs are generous enough to allow most of the furniture to sit on top. The appearance of a room can be thrown off if there's a rug in the center with furniture surrounding it like a bull's-eye.

Small rugs typically don't do much for a room on their own, he warns, but they can act as bridges if larger rugs are nearby. But avoid matching rugs because they'll compete for attention. (An exception would be runners on the sides of a bed. Those can be the same.)

Also be aware of rugs with central medallions, Sundermeier advises. They can make a room look odd if the furniture is asymmetrical around it.

Designers say it's OK for rugs to be placed atop low-pile wall-to-

wall carpet to add color or tie elements in a room together. But rugs don't typically work well on broad-loom carpet — it can make the floor too high to swing a door over, and people can trip over the rug's edge.

The high-pile carpet can also make the rug bunch and pucker up," Hoelzel says.

But area rugs can be placed in nontraditional rooms and spaces: bathrooms, kitchens and alongside pool tables. It's just a matter of material.

Wool outperforms other fibers because it washes and wears well. Synthetics such as nylon hold up well, but colors such as blue and red fade easily in direct sunlight. Cotton and jute are soft but should be used in areas where there isn't much foot traffic because they wear out easily.

Sundermeier says most people aren't aware that rugs made of natural fibers such as sisal (made of the leaves of agave plants) aren't durable in moist areas. So they shouldn't be used in screen porches or bathrooms.

The latest trend in area rugs is lots of texture, says Elizabeth Miller, senior vice president of design for Karastan in New York City. Shag instantly softens hard floor surfaces and straight-line furniture, she says.

That's why flokati — thick wool shag — has made a comeback, says Susan Bahl, president of Naturlich Natural Home in Sebastopol, Calif. People want their babies to crawl on the soft, Greek-style rugs in the family room, she says.

Whatever the rug's material, people need to invest in rug pads. They protect floors from scratching and anchor rugs in place. Designers recommend horsehair or special rubber pads.

"It's like a lining on a suit," Sundermeier says. "It makes a rug lie better and look better by giving it more body and a nicer step."

When choosing a rug

- Find the right size for the space.
- Make sure it has a clear purpose.
- Select durable materials for high-traffic areas.

- Don't get hung up on colors.
- Buy pricier ones for more public living areas.

Rug textures

■ **Jersey shag**
Made of: Cotton T-shirt fabric
Place: In bedrooms and living rooms

But not: Dining areas or kitchens
Care: Hand wash cold. Dry flat.

Starting price: \$30
Where to buy this one: Crate and Barrel, 800-323-5461, www.crateandbarrel.com

■ **Flokati**
Made of: Wool shag
Place: In bedrooms and living rooms. Looks especially good with modern furniture.

But not: Dining areas or kitchens
Care: Vacuum or handwash in lukewarm water. Drip dry.

Starting price: \$100
Where to buy this one: Naturlich Natural Home, 707-824-0914, www.naturlichhomeproducts.com

■ **Natural fiber**
Made of: Woven Baboi grass, Hogla aquatic herbs and Rati palm leaves

Place: In casual living rooms
But not: Bathrooms or screen porches because of the moisture

Care: Regular vacuuming on high setting. Dry clean for stains

Starting price: \$790
Where to buy this one: High Cotton, Kansas City, 816-421-3561

■ **Hand-knotted**

Made of: Wool pile
Place: Anywhere
Care: Vacuum on high setting.

Avoid fringe. Hand brush in direction of pile.

Starting price: \$350

Where to buy this one: Smith and Burstert, Kansas City, 816-474-9339

■ **Flat weave**
Made of: Wool
Place: Anywhere
Care: Vacuum on high setting.

Avoid fringe.

Starting price: \$400

Where to buy this one: Smith and Burstert, Kansas City

Shapes

Rugs that aren't traditional rectangles can be a bit tricky to place in rooms.

Benjamin Sundermeier, interior designer and space planner in

Kansas City, says:

■ **Circles**

Use: In an area near a sink; large ones can work in an entry way.

Don't use: Under a round table. It can create a bull's-eye effect.

■ **Half circles**

Use: In an entryway in front of double doors, in front of a bathroom sink or in front of a fireplace.

Don't use: Under any table.

■ **Square**

Use: Anywhere you would use

a rectangular rug.

Don't use: A small

large area.

■ **Oval**

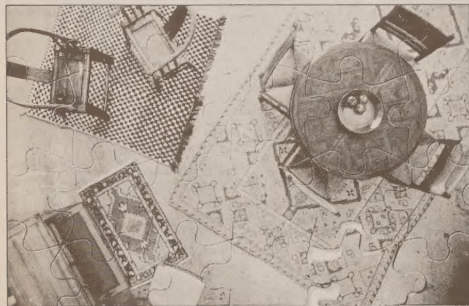
Use: In entryways, and in kitchens.

Don't use: In areas of formality. The rounded corners ate instant casualness.

■ **Skinny rectangles**

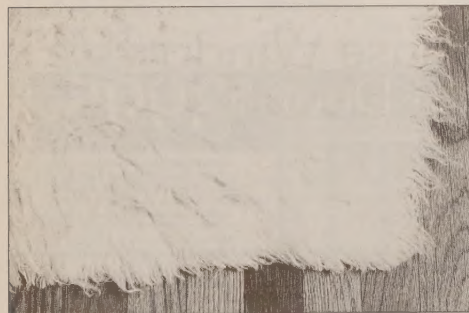
Use: In hallways, on the side of pool tables.

Don't use: Underneath or in wide spaces.



JOHN MUTRUX/KANSAS CITY STAR

AREA RUGS BRING WARMTH during the winter, protecting feet from frigid floors and creating a cozy look in a room. Solve the dilemma by choosing the right rug for the right space as shown in this area rug puzzle.



JOHN MUTRUX/KANSAS CITY STAR

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Low-demand gardening is in ...

BY VAN MULLEKOM
STAFF WRITER

For Faith Popcorn says about simplifying being a percent of us say life is simpler.

Life doesn't necessarily mean cutting back. Instead, it means doing things smarter, not harder.

Simplifying doesn't mean means easy with less fuss.

Low-demand gardening is low-maintenance gardening. According to the Garden Group and other gardeners, it's about:

It's in — over
It's out
Color scheme and stick to the color scheme. Planning with a specialist at Longwood in Kennett Square, Pa.

You pick a theme, it's easier to plan and shop. An garden, for example, is all lights up a shady yard, and pink gardens.

With similar colors — anders and purples — to monomy and give a sense of accomplishment, this buy 10 one plant instead of two of one plant, and plant them

in a mass of color. You'll get lots of visual impact.

Harmony is in — a riot of color is out

Think of mind-calming Japanese gardens instead of busy English cottage gardens, recommends Steven Hutton, president of The Conard-Pyle Co. His company, Star Roses, develops some of the All-America Rose Selections such as Carefree Delight, Betty Boop and Cherry Parfait.

"There is riot in everything we do," he says. "The riot does not need to be in our back yard."

He, too, suggests planting a sweep of one plant or mixing shades of one plant.

This trend is called mass planting, or color blocking, according to Elvin McDonald, garden editor at Better Homes & Gardens.

In addition to lending a harmonious tone to your garden, sweeps of color are easier to create and maintain.

Monoprint containers are in — mixed containers are out

Stay in one color family per container for a peaceful and classic look.

"Plants in too many colors and textures look as tasteless as wearing plaids, stripes and prints to-

gether," says McDonald.

Plus, you can have two plants that flunk and the entire container fails.

To create no-fail container gardens, put one color flower in several containers, or plant several identical containers with different colors of complementary flowers — pink and purple or yellow and peach. Here, less is definitely more.

Extending the planting season is in — planting just in spring is out

Forget waiting until the "frost free" time to plant. Now, there are early, mid- and late-season blooming perennials as well as more and more plants that even bloom in late winter. Fragrant daphne, sweetbox (you'll hear more about this one in a later column), Helleborus, pinks and mahonia, just to name a few.

Basically, only laziness prevents you from having a year-round garden.

Running water is in — still water is out

Water gardens continue to be the rage, but running water is the way to go because the movement keeps unwanted mosquito larvae from getting established. Small ponds with waterfalls, water lilies and bright-colored fish bring a little "feng shui" or

balance to the environment.

If a pond is not your style, you can get the same effect from a fountain that also serves as an art element. Next year, look for fountains with Zen-like looks and feelings.

Green revolutions are in — chemical attacks are out

We're spending more than \$30 billion on organic produce and cosmetics. We're also trying to garden the natural way, looking for alternatives to toxic weed controls and fertilizers.

This holistic approach to gardening means we need to improve the soil before we put in the plants. In other words, create a \$100 hole for a \$50 plant.

Products with organic compost, seaweed extract and corn gluten worked into them help us feed the soil and eliminate weeds without chemicals that negatively impact our environment.

In the long run, it's easier, maintenance-friendly gardening because we work with plants to help them take care of themselves and get off chemicals.

In addition to looking for natural gardening products, you need to select plants that are bred to resist diseases and pests, including native varieties.

Yard fun is in — yard work is out

Forget using the word "chores" to describe yard work. Instead, look at it as an outlet for physical and

mental health.

Lifting bags of fertilizer strengthens bones and tones muscles. Bending to pick up pots and stooping to scoop up weeds keeps you flexible.

Gardening, whether you just mow the lawn or put in a full-fledged flower bed, yields two results — a healthier you and a pretty place to live.

And if you like to eat what you grow, the odds are you will be even healthier because you're consuming more veggies and fruits.

Landscaping is in — random plantings are out

A pulled-together look in your yard is important. It enhances your home's appearance, giving it good curb appeal.

A nice landscape also increases the value of your home. In fact, landscaping can pay for itself when you sell your home. A study by Virginia Tech estimates an attractive landscape increases the value of a home by an average of 7.5 percent and reduces the time on the market by five to six weeks.

Decorating is in — misplaced shrubs are out

The yard is now considered an outdoor room extension of your home. It's not just a place to put a few shrubs around the foundation of your house.

Like good furniture, you first need to invest in some timeless pieces you want to keep forever. Think of trees, shrubs and perennials as the backbone of your design. Accessorize with annuals and tropicals. Drop some bucks on a couple pieces of carefully chosen garden art.

You also want to forget lining the steps with small pots of geraniums. Instead, create one large container garden that's sure to attract lots of admiring looks.

Nature outside-in is in — separating space is out

"Outside-in" is the new motto in home design. Outdoor furniture is being used in family and living rooms. Cast-stone containers serve to hold magazines and plants indoors.

"You see the lines between indoor-outdoor blurring," says Alex Bhattacharji, executive editor of Budget Living magazine.

"The splurge is an outdoor piece that you would really want indoors."

Learn more

Visit these online sites to learn more about gardening trends from professionals in the industry:

- Garden Media Group at www.gardenmediagroup.com
- Longwood Gardens at www.longwoodgardens.org
- Better Homes & Gardens at www.bhg.com
- Star Roses at www.star-roses.com
- Associated Landscape Contractors of America at www.alca.org
- Faith Popcorn at www.faith-popcorn.com

As air: Despite their looks, tillandsias are friendly, easy to grow plants

BY BETH BOTTS

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
GO — Free as air. That's how tillandsias are.

ants," they're called. They live on air, but they can't breathe.

ants perch in high places in moisture and nutrients in their leaves, not their roots. They use only for themselves to trees or

houseplants, air plants are charming and "one of the easiest plants to grow," says Michael Strickland, grower manager for Joy-Syl Foliage World, a wholesaler of air plants in Apopka, Fla.

The chlorine and minerals in treated tap water can be harmful. Rainwater — which Goode collects from her gutter downspouts — contains enough nutrients so you don't ever have to fertilize, she says.

Air circulation is important: After watering, the plants must drain and dry out thoroughly, Goode says. In the rain forest, they would be drenched in frequent rains, but then would dry in the breeze.

The other thing tillandsias need is light — bright filtered light, preferably right by a window, Sadowski says.

If air plants don't grow in soil in pots, how do you display them?

Goode keeps her collection in a basket on the windowsill. Every week after she dunks them, she rearranges them so all get light and air circulation.

You also can use waterproof glue such as Liquid Nails to fix an arrangement of air plants to a handsome branch or rock.

Sadowski says the botanic garden uses floral pins — large U-shaped wire pins, available in some craft stores — to pin air plants to pieces of cork bark. Or you can glue tillandsias to a foam form to make a wreath or a kissing ball.

The botanic garden displayed Christmas tree topiaries of assorted bromeliads this season, with garlands of tillandsias. They were made by tucking the plants into a network of fishing line stretched on cone-shaped metal frames packed with sphagnum moss.

You even can dangle air plants in the window from very fine, flexible wire or nylon fishing line. Just make sure you don't tie it too tight and harm the plant.

If you have another large houseplant, such as a rubber tree, by the window, take a cue from the rain forest and perch an air plant in the crotch of a branch, Sadowski suggests. "That's sort of how they would grow in their natural habitat," she says. Just be careful not to position air plants near a heating vent or other heat source that would likely dry them out.

A healthy, happy tillandsia eventually will send up a bloom from its center that lasts two to three weeks. After the bloom dies, the plant will start producing little side plants — "pups," tillandsia fanciers call them. In time, Scott says, the plant will multiply into a little colony.

When a pup is at least two-thirds the size of the mother plant, you can cut it off carefully and give it a home of its own, Scott says. In about three years, it will bloom.

"All they need is a little moisture, and they'll live anywhere," Strickland says. "They're about as foolproof as you can get."

Tips and sources
Tillandsias are easy to grow, though they live differently than most houseplants. Here are a few tips for their care.

Water: Bottled water or rainwater is better than tap water. Mist or dunk plants, then drain and let them dry out.

Air: Good circulation is essential. Light: Provide bright filtered light, preferably right by a south or east window.

Pot and soil: None needed. Tillandsia plants perch or dangle and draw moisture and nutrients from the air.

To learn more: See the Bromeliad Society International's Web site at <http://bsi.org>.

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Books offer different perspectives on home design

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"Essential Designs for Living"

By Louis Sagar, HarperCollins, \$50.

For anyone who's ever tried to take a bunch of mismatched items and put them together to make something beautiful, this book's for you.

Louis Sagar, who founded the earthy home furnishings store Zona in SoHo, is the brains behind "Zona Home." He's known for his talent in mixing natural materials and beautifully crafted goods and mak-

ing them work in an aesthetically pleasing collection.

In this book, Sagar encourages readers to assess their needs, wants and likes in planning an ideal home. He addresses several of the senses — sight, sound, touch — in creating rooms that are beautiful to look at but still functional.

There are practical sections: You'll learn how to hang a picture, buy antiques and create a still life. You'll also meet some of his favorite artisans, travel around the globe to get a taste of the exotic and peek into the homes of those who buy into the Sagar style.

Enjoy the more than 200 pho-

tos in the book, for they capture the Zona look in all their colorful glory.

"Designing the Good Home"

By Dennis Wedlick and Philip Landon, HarperCollins, \$50.

Drive through any subdivision, and you'll notice a certain sameness to the structures. Conformity often is a security blanket, especially when it comes to residential architecture.

In "Designing the Good Home," Dennis Wedlick folds this security blanket and puts it in storage. A Philip Johnson-trained architect, Wedlick encourages us to create homes that have unique character and inspire feelings in others.

In his attempts to redefine what "modern" architecture is, and isn't, Wedlick offers examples of

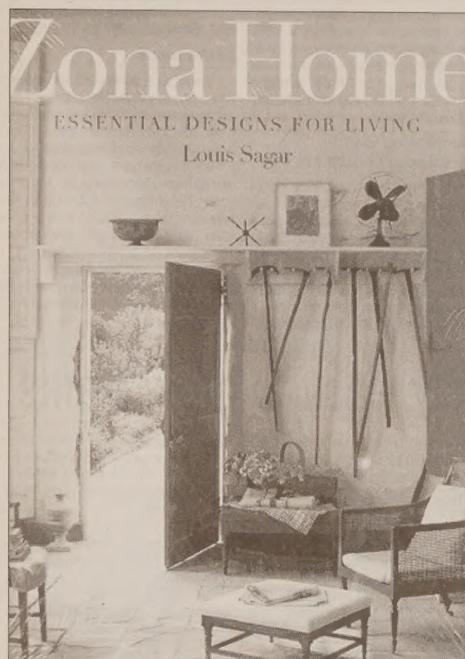
homes that wouldn't normally pop into your mind when considering modern homes.

They aren't steel-and-glass-clad boxes but homes built with common materials and homes that take into account their surroundings.

Many of the examples are sensibly sized homes as well, and make up in character and presence what they lack in square footage. (Check out the 1,860-square-foot Oregon coast home on Page 181.)

Three architects are featured in "Designing the Good Home," and alas, their territory doesn't include Texas.

But it doesn't really matter where one lives in order to think about how symmetry, balance and light, among other things, fit into our ideal of a good home.



IN THE BOOK "Essential Designs for Living", Louis Sagar encourages readers to assess their needs, wants and likes in planning an ideal home. In the book "Designing the Good Home," Dennis Wedlick encourages us to create homes that have unique character and inspire feelings in others.



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BY LORI SEARS
THE BALTIMORE SUN

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paintbrush, tape, and acrylic paints, and with that it can be done in an hour or less. Boys and girls range from nursery themes to music, photography, animal themes.

Wall Art is available in sizes and prices — 11 x 14 feet (\$49.97), 9 x 12 feet (\$39.97) and 11 x 12 feet (\$59.97). As well, designs can be used on furniture and more. It's at www.wallartdesign.com calling 877-925-5880.

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